

# Jordan Times

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## Eitani: Israel may bomb Iraqi plant

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A former Israeli army chief said Tuesday the Jewish state should again destroy an Iraqi nuclear reactor it bombed in 1981 if the plant was rebuilt. Reserve Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitani, who headed the Israeli army when the Tammuz plant was attacked in 1981, said on Israel Radio: "Our problem was then, and is today and always, will there be nuclear weapons in the hands of a hostile state against which we would be defenceless?" The Jerusalem Post daily quoted what it termed official Israeli sources as saying Sami Araba had offered to fund reconstruction of the plant near Baghdad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced this week the plant would reopen. It was not immediately clear to what the paper was referring. Hussein said on March 26 during a visit by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd that Riyadh promised in 1981 to pay for the reconstruction of the plant. But he did not say if or when the plant would reopen. Eitani, now a right wing parliamentarian told the radio: "I think we must immediately... tell the United States and the Western World that such a process is unacceptable... and to prepare the other option... that is to repeat what we did then (in 1981), we have no choice," he said.

## Commandos blow up SLA building

HASBAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Palestinian commandos Tuesday blew up an administration building used by Israeli troops and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen on the edge of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in south Lebanon. A police spokesman said at least two militiamen from the Israeli-backed militia, the South Lebanon Army, were wounded in the 7:40 a.m. (0540 GMT) blast at the Zumarraya Crossing point into the zone, three kilometres north of Hasbaya. The blast also destroyed a U.S.-made M-113 armoured personnel carrier, he said. Two Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine commandos were later arrested a few kilometres north of Zumarraya, the spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said. Meanwhile Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin says Israel will not interfere in the latest fighting in Lebanon as long as Syria does not move either its troops or weaponry too close to Israel's border. "I don't care today that 35,000 Syrian soldiers are sitting in Lebanon where they are positioned," Rabin told high school pupils in Tel Aviv Monday.

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## Al Hussein visits Air Force HQ

His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called at the Royal Jordanian Air Force Headquarters, where he was received by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and the Royal Jordanian Air Force Commander Ihsan Shurdim who briefed him on the Air Force's duties. King Hussein met for a while with the Air Force commander, in the presence of Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Isha Shaker and Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb. King Hussein voiced satisfaction and admiration at the standard the Air Force has achieved (Petra photo)

## Jordan begins high level talks with IMF

AMMAN (R) — Jordan began high-level talks with an IMF mission Tuesday on ways to overcome a financial crisis likely to require an IMF standby facility and debt rescheduling. Central Bank Deputy Governor Maher Shukri told Reuters Jordan was asking for a standby credit, but gave no details. "The present talks are restricted to agreeing the figures and projections that will form the basis for talks on policy. These will start in three or four days," he said.

He expected the current round of talks with the IMF to be over before the end of next week. Jordan, financially squeezed by a drop in Arab aid and remittances, faces debt repayments this year of \$1.2 billion on its total foreign debt of about \$6 billion. The deputy director of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Middle East Department, Mohammad Yaacoub, joined an advance IMF team that has been in Amman for more than a week.

Planning Minister Taber Kanaan said the discussions were part of the IMF's annual consultations with Jordan. "Of course they have a special importance this year because of our current situation," he told Reuters. "When we faced the current crisis, we took the appropriate measures and we expect the IMF will not find any problems with that. Of course there is always room for fine-tuning," he said.

Under IMF rules governing standby credits, Jordan can get a facility ranging from 125 per cent up to 300 per cent of its quota of about 75 million special drawing rights (about \$100 million), Kanaan said.

Issues during their one-hour cruise. No official communiques were issued, but diplomats say Mubarak's scheduled visit to Washington next month and attempts to persuade President George Bush to back an international peace conference on the Middle East would be a key topic.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said Monday when King Fahd arrived here from Baghdad that the visit would help tackle the Palestinian problem.

Both Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein, who is also due to visit the United States in the next few weeks, have urged Israel to accept the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a partner in negotiations for a comprehensive settlement.

Mubarak, burdened by his country's \$43 billion debt and pressured by Western creditors and the International Monetary Fund to make difficult economic reforms, would also like Saudi pledges of further investment in Egypt.

Ezzat Adel, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, told reporters that his organisation and a group of Saudi investors were studying a multi-million-dollar project to build a giant amusement park near Ismailia. He gave no details of the project.

Egyptian officials said the two leaders would be able to tackle pressing diplomatic and economic

## Aoun's forces claim thwarting tank offensive

## Arab League committee calls for immediate end to fighting in Lebanon

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League's Council of Ministers Tuesday called for an immediate end to fighting in Lebanon and urged parties involved to support the League's peace efforts.

The statement, issued after the first session of the council's spring meeting, called for a halt "without delay to the fighting in Lebanon."

The appeal came as the League's Committee of Good Offices on Lebanon prepared to consult with seven former Lebanese leaders, including two ex-presidents, invited to Tunis to help in the peace effort following the outbreak of a new round in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

Former Presidents Amin Gemayel and Sulayman Frayyah, former Prime Ministers Rachid Al Sulh, Amin Al Hafiz, Sa'eb Salem and Shafiq Al Wazzan and the former Lebanese Parliament Speaker Adel Osserane have been in the Tunisian capital since Monday.

The committee, formed Jan. 12 and headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has already consulted with Salim Hoss and Gen. Michel Aoun, the heads of two rival Lebanese governments disputing power in the war-torn country.

Since March 8 when the new round of fighting broke out between Falangist militias and Syrian-backed Lebanese opposition groups, 116 people have been killed and 362 wounded. An estimated 35,000 Syrian troops are stationed in Lebanon.

The statement said the council noted with "pain and regret the unjustifiable deterioration of the situation in Lebanon which can only aggravate the suffering of the Lebanese people."

The council also called on those involved to "recognise their national, historic and moral responsibilities" and to "accept responsibility for the consequences of continuing the fighting."

The committee is made up of the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, who was re-elected earlier Tuesday to a third five-year term of office.

In Beirut, Syrian gunners and Falangist army units duelled with artillery and rockets in and around Beirut Tuesday after the army command said its troops thwarted an overnight tank offensive against its strategic positions.

The afternoon fighting followed overnight clashes which killed two people and wounded 12. The three-week confrontation has left 116 people dead and 362 wounded.

A police spokesman, who refused to give his name, said shells and rockets crashed on east and west Beirut's residential districts but no immediate report of casualties was available.

A spokesman for Gen. Michel Aoun's command said 15 Syrian troops were killed in the abortive attack against his army units entrenched in the strategic hill-top resort of Souk Al Gharb, 16 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

The spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the attacking Syrian troops fell into an ambush by a unit of Aoun's troops deployed in the no-man's land separating the army's area of operations from Syrian-controlled territory.

He said the Syrians also lost two Soviet-designed T-54 tanks and a truck-mounted battery of multi-barrelled rocket launchers in the attack.

The Syrian Army Command in west Beirut withheld comment on the report and a Lebanese police spokesman said the department was "traditionally not informed on the Syrian army's activities."

The whole Souk Al Gharb sector was in flames last night. Our stations reported ferocious shelling of the army's area of operations from Syrian-controlled territory. The army's response was fierce," said the spokesman who cannot be named in line with police rules.

The Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio accused the Syrians of launching a "war of annihilation" by firing 5,000 rocket and mortar rounds from dusk Monday to dawn Tuesday at the Falangist enclave northeast of Beirut.

The crescent-shaped 800-square-kilometre territory houses about one million people, with the Mediterranean on one side and a siege laid down by Syrian troops and allied forces on all other sides.

Falangist gunners responded to the barrage by pounding Syrian-controlled west Beirut and Druze mountains southeast of the capital with U.S.-designed 155-millimetre Howitzer shells.

Voice of Lebanon, mouthpiece of the Falange Party, quoted an unidentified military source as saying 19,800 shells of different calibres have been fired on east and west Beirut since March 14.

Beirut looked more like a ghost city Tuesday, with rubble from the overnight barrage littering the deserted streets.

Witnesses in Zokak Blatt district, which took the brunt of the Falangist barrage, said Aoun's gunners scored at least 10 direct hits in the 40-storey unfinished skyscraper that is used as a main base by the Syrian army in Beirut.

Clashes raged all night before the duel tapered off into sporadic exchanges of mortar rounds after daybreak, the police spokesman said.

Members of the Journalists Association met with Police Inspector-General David Krauss Tuesday to ask him to forbid the practice.

Krauss responded with a statement saying he would instruct all police units to refrain from impersonating journalists unless they had his personal permission.

"Any request by police figures to make use of such means will be subject to the approval of the inspector general," the statement said.

Israeli journalists and the Foreign Press Association in Israel protested last week after two policemen in East Jerusalem were spotted with a press sign in the window of their unmarked car and were later seen arresting Palestinians.

After the protests, Krauss said Monday that police were legally permitted to pose as journalists and would continue to do so.



A young boy runs for shelter during heavy bombardment in west Beirut

## Underground leaders call on Israeli Arabs to join Palestinian uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

Underground leaders of a Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories have urged Israeli Arabs to join the revolt ahead of a key Arab nationalist anniversary this week.

In the occupied West Bank, an Israeli policeman shot dead a four-year-old Palestinian boy Monday after being stoned by protesters during a general strike, police sources said.

The boy was the second youngest Palestinian killed in the 15-month uprising. The latest leaflet from the PLO-backed Unified Leadership of the Uprising called for Israel's 700,000 Arabs to join the revolt: "Let your efforts in support of the intifada (uprising) and in asserting your Palestinian identity be united."

It also called for a new strike and confrontations on Land Day, when Israel's Arabs commemorated the 1976 killing of six comrades in protests against the seizure of Arab Land. The anniversary falls Thursday.

"Unify all efforts to celebrate this glorious anniversary by a general strike, complete disobedience and an escalation of confrontations," the leaflet said.

Past appeals by Palestinians to Israeli Arabs have been widely ignored but both Palestinians and Israelis regard Land Day as a test of strength for the revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza, which were occupied in 1967.

Israeli authorities hope Land Day will pass peacefully, enabling them to take conciliatory steps such as reopening Palestinian schools and releasing Arab prisoners for the Ramadan holiday, security sources said.

Israel closed the occupied territories for three days this time last year — then an unprecedented step in the revolt — and made mass arrests. But Palestinians defied the crackdown and Israeli troops shot dead four protesters on Land Day.

Israeli authorities are unlikely to take such stern measures this year to avoid antagonising the United States ahead of next week's visit to Washington by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for important talks with President Bush.

Security sources said the army would probably close off the territories to journalists and concentrate on preventing Palestinian militants for entering Israeli Arab villages near the border of the West Bank to stir up unrest.

Police said they would also deploy 5,000 officers and soldiers in Israel to prevent violence and were meeting heads of Arab local councils to discourage demonstrations.

In a separate development, the head of Israel's police reversed his decision Tuesday and ordered policemen to limit the practice of disguising themselves as journalists while searching for Palestinian protesters.

The decision came following an appeal from Jerusalem's Journalists Association, which said that the practice could endanger reporters travelling in the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem to cover the Palestinian uprising.

Palestinian youths routinely stone cars with yellow Israeli license plates, but are more likely to let journalists pass peacefully. Arab-owned cars in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have blue or white license plates.

"The timing was perhaps... wrong," said a rebel source. "The time pressure put in everybody's mind the idea of a quick victory."

He said the Mujahadeen's strength lies in fighting a guerrilla war, not launching a conventional attack on an urban centre. Western diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, on Tuesday reported a lull in the three-week battle between rebels and Kabul government troops at Jalalabad.

Quoting guerrilla sources, diplomats said the fighting has dropped off while rebels, aligned with seven major resistance groups in the area, try to coordi-

## Montazeri quits as Khomeini's successor

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)

Ayatollah Ali Montazeri, the designated successor of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, said Tuesday that he would not be Khomeini's successor, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that Montazeri said in a letter to Khomeini that he was not ready to be Khomeini's successor.

The move came amid signs of a major shakeup in the Foreign Ministry, with Iran's ambassador to the United Nations and an assistant foreign minister resigning.

Khomeini thanked Montazeri for opting out, the radio said. It quoted Khomeini as saying that even when Montazeri was designated as his successor by the council of experts, he had opposed the choice.

Montazeri declared last month that Iranian leaders made many mistakes in the first 10 years of the Islamic Revolution, isolating the infant republic from much of the world, and that the revolution had failed in its policies and promises.

Questioning the war with Iraq has been anathema in Iran, but Montazeri last month dared to ask, "did we succeed in doing well during the imposed war, or did the enemies who imposed it turn out to be the victors?"

Although Khomeini did not mention Montazeri by name, he blasted his heir-apparent a week later by proclaiming, "how shortsighted are those who think that because we did not reach final victory at the front, that martyrdom and self-sacrifice are worthless."

Also Tuesday, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, resigned.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said that the resignation was announced in a statement issued by the Iranian delegation

to the United Nations. Mahallati's resignation came only two days after Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani handed in his resignation.

Montazeri and both U.S.-educated officials seem to be the first casualties of Iran's return to fundamentalism, following Khomeini's harsh attack last month on rebuilding links with the West.

Larjani has a doctorate in logic and mathematics from the University of California, while Mahallati has a master's in economics from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas.

The powerful Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati were the chief pragmatists behind the drive to soften Iran's radical image following the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

But Khomeini, claiming that Iran had drifted away from the values of its 1979 revolution, said in a lengthy warning to the pragmatists last week that "the government must do its best to govern the people as best it can, but this does not mean that it should drive them away from the great goals of the revolution, which is the creation of a global Islamic government."

The Rafsanjani camp had argued that opening Iran to the West was an economic necessity in the post-war period.

Following the ceasefire Tehran normalised ties with a number of Western countries, including Britain and France.

But last month Khomeini denounced attempts to liberalise Iran and condemned bridge-building efforts by Iranian leaders.

Khomeini had said recently: "As long as I am alive I shall never let the state fall into the hands of the liberals."



## Riyadh, Tehran close to ending Mecca boycott

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia and Iran are close to breaking Tehran's two-year-old boycott of the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Iranian sources said.

But the question of how many Iranians the kingdom will allow on the Haj is still a divisive issue. The quota is an important factor in a complicated web involving the claim to spiritual leadership of Islam, stalled peace talks between Iran and Iraq, and the Afghan conflict.

Gulf Arab diplomats said Riyadh and Tehran were keen for an agreement, which might lead to resumed diplomatic ties before the Haj in July.

Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran after a riot in Mecca in July, 1987, triggered by political protest by Iranian pilgrims, ended with 400 dead, most of them Iranian pilgrims.

Iranian sources said a solution had appeared near following meetings between Iranian and Saudi officials at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh two weeks ago.

But the dialogue has stuck on the quota and Iran's demand that pilgrims should be allowed to use the Haj as a political forum.

"Saudi Arabia is not going to budge on keeping pilgrims out of the Haj," said a Gulf Arab diplomat.

The Iranian sources, who are close to Tehran Parliament members, said Iran could accept the idea of no pilgrims but would then want a higher quota.

Saudi Arabia would allow 50,000 pilgrims on the Haj, Iran is asking for 150,000, the sources said.

Arah diplomats said Saudi Arabia, which Tuesday signed a non-aggression pact with Iraq, would like to see restored relations with Iran to complete the circle of peaceful ties with Gulf Islamic nations.

Egyptian officials Monday tip-

ped King Hussein's current tour to Iraq and Egypt as a new and active Saudi diplomatic effort to smooth over schisms in the Islamic world.

Western diplomats said Iran would like Saudi Arabia, which was Iraq's major financial supporter during the eight-year-long Gulf war, to help break a deadlock in peace talks with Baghdad.

Tehran wants Iraq to withdraw from Iranian territory it says Baghdad's troops still occupy, but its options to achieve this are limited, the diplomats say.

"Iran cannot call for support on the United States, Britain, or France in the United Nations Security Council. The Soviet Union is unlikely to take sides. Only China might help out of the five permanent members," said a European diplomat.

Tehran failed to get Islamic nations to back its call for the killing of British author Salman Rushdie for writing "The Satanic Verses," a book Muslims consider blasphemous.

Western diplomats said that Saudi Arabia, challenged to respond over the Rushdie affair, had also outflanked Iran over manoeuvres to influence a final settlement in Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia this month was the first country to recognise the Sunni-dominated rebel government, fighting the Moscow-backed government of President Najibullah in Kabul.

Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim rebels walked out of the rebel administration and Iranian newspapers urged Tehran to recognise the Sunni group to block growing Saudi influence.

Iranian sources said earlier this month that Pakistan had offered to be an honest broker to help restore Saudi-Iran ties.



Mujahedeen dodging missiles fired by Afghan government forces in the on-going battle for the city of Jalalabad.

## Najibullah invites rebels to talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah repeated an invitation to Mujahedeen commanders to attend peace talks to end the country's 10-year war and to take a share in government.

In a broadcast over the official Kabul radio Monday, monitored in Islamabad, he said he was awaiting a positive response from the rebels.

The Western-backed Mujahedeen have rejected Kabul's previous peace offers and refused to share power with Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The latest appeal was address-

ed only to what Najibullah called "opposition commanders inside Afghanistan." He asked them not to take orders from Pakistan-based rebel leaders, who set up a government-in-exile last month.

He said the rebels rejected previous peace offers on the grounds that Soviet troops were in the country.

"Now we have no Russians; so why is there war?" he said referring to the Soviet troop withdrawal completed last month under U.N.-mediated Geneva Accords.

"You want government, so let us have a 'Jirga' (traditional

council) in a peaceful atmosphere," he said. "We all must sit together, make a ceasefire as a first step and then build a government in our home."

"We do not say the country belongs to the PDPA. The country belongs to all of us."

Najibullah said that while inviting the rebel commanders to peace talks, he was not asking them to surrender arms. "You can keep the weapons with yourselves."

He said if the rebel commanders were not ready for talks, they should for the present have a

ceasefire in their areas. "Slowly we will come together for peace talks. The government is ready to help you in any economic situation."

For three weeks rebel forces have been mounting an offensive against the eastern town of Jalalabad which they want to use as a base for an interim government.

The Afghan government Monday reported a lull in the ground fighting around Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan, and said the rebels appeared to be giving up hope of victory.

## Ozal plans sweeping cabinet reshuffle

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Tuesday put final touches to a new cabinet list aimed at restoring public confidence in his government after a crushing defeat in municipal elections.

Ministers resigned en masse Monday night to make way for sweeping changes planned by Ozal, who has defiantly resisted calls for his own resignation and an early general election.

Ozal's Motherland Party won third with 21.9 per cent of the vote in Sunday's nationwide polls which swept it from power in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir and many other areas.

"The mentality displayed by

Ozal's announcement (of no early election) is extremely worrying," Erdal Inonu, whose Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) topped Sunday's poll with 28.2 per cent of the vote, told reporters.

"He is belittling the fact that the will of the nation has turned against his policy and administration... this attitude will lead Turkey into crises and insoluble quarrels," he added.

Ozal, a 61-year-old pro-Western conservative in office since three years of army rule ended in 1983, said Monday he would announce a new cabinet within days after it was endorsed by President Kenan Evren.

Political sources said a reshuffle of the 22-member cabinet was likely to increase the number of ministers from the Western-oriented liberal wing of the Motherland, a loose-knit alliance which also embraces politicians from the Muslim right.

They said Ozal's brother, State Minister Yusuf Ozal who oversees the economy, nephew and Agriculture Minister Husnu Dogan and Education Minister Hasan Celal Guzel, were among likely casualties.

Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan, embroiled in legal action over allegations, which he denies, of misuse of public funds

while a career diplomat, may also be dropped, the sources said.

Ozal was criticised during election campaigning for heavy reliance on family members for advice, and for free-wheeling economic policies which have pushed up inflation to 72 per cent.

The government, seeking to ally instability fears among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and other allies, said in a statement its "internal economic policy and relations with foreign countries... will not be affected in any way the political balance and parliamentary arithmetic," it added.

## Thatcher urges quick action in Mideast

MARRAKESH (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in Morocco on the first leg of a six-day African tour, has made an urgent call for immediate efforts to stabilise the Middle East situation.

Thatcher was speaking at a banquet in her honour Monday night hosted by King Hassan during a 24-hour visit to Marrakesh on her way to southern Africa.

"No one should be in doubt that the present situation in the Middle East is fundamentally unstable and cannot continue," she said. "It is time for well-prepared negotiations to begin. Never has the need for a solution been more urgent."

The British leader favours an international Middle East peace conference as a means of trying to solve the conflict.

Thatcher noted that King Hassan, unusually for an Arab leader, had held talks in 1986 with Shimon Peres, then Israel's prime minister.

Calling it a "courageous move," she told the Moroccan monarch: "As you said then, nothing is ever lost by exploring the views of one's opponents. That is an example from which Israel can learn."

She said: "I would like to see Britain and Morocco cooperate in helping to bring the Israelis and the Palestinians together."

Thatcher left Morocco early Tuesday and will stop briefly in Lagos where she will have an airport meeting with President Ibrahim Babangida before spending a further three days in Zimbabwe and Malawi.

## 'Rajavi's sister held, executed'

NICOSIA (AP) — Mujahedeen Khalq, Iran's main opposition group, claimed Monday that the sister of its leader, Massoud Rajavi, has been executed after torture in an Iranian prison.

Tehran had no immediate comment on the allegation, but its official media reported new arrests in the wide-spread crackdown on drug smuggling and addition in the country.

A statement sent by telex to the AP in Nicosia from Paris, where Mujahedeen Khalq, or People's Warriors, has its information headquarters, said Monirah Rajavi, had been arrested along with her husband, Asghar Nazemi, in 1982.

The statement claimed that the couple's only offense was that the woman was the sister of Rajavi, who in addition to being Mujahedeen's leader, also is commander of the National Liberation Army, a coalition of Iranian dissident factions based in Iraq.

It said Nazemi was executed in 1985 and his wife was tortured for several years after that before being executed. It said she was 38 years old.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime, the Mujahedeen charged, has refused to admit that the woman has been put to death.

## Lebanon's spring tainted by war in mountains

By Samia Nakhoul  
Reuter

ALEY, Lebanon — Spring is in the air in Lebanon's Druze villages, but it is accompanied by the stench of war.

The pine-clad hills, dotted with a riot of spring blossoms, are slashed and torn by the ugly scars caused by exploding artillery shells.

Hundreds of shells have crashed into the fields around the mountain town of Aley, five kilometres northeast of the main battlezone, during the past 10 days.

Amid the beauty, villagers

are busy filling sandbags as a defence against any fresh shelling from mainly Falangist troops and Druze fighters entrenched in the mountains south east of Beirut.

Druze fighters of the 5,000-strong Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) have been on full alert in hills dominating the Falangist enclave since battles broke out with soldiers loyal to Major-General Michel Aoun on March 14.

Aoun heads a military government, rivaling a Syrian-backed civilian cabinet led by Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss. The two governments

have been competing for power since last September when parliament failed to elect a new head of state.

"We have nothing except war. War is in our blood," said a 26-year-old Druze fighter in the village of Bsbamoun.

"We wish (Aoun) would use his jets because as soon as he does that we will shoot them down. We are well prepared to face his planes. We have ringed the area (with anti-aircraft guns)," said a colleague.

The PSP fighters, led by Walid Junblat who is a minister in the Hoss cabinet, said

they were armed with Syrian-supplied and Soviet-made T-72 and T-54 tanks, rocket-launchers, anti-aircraft guns and Strella missiles.

The Druze, an offshoot of Islam, say that only an all-out war can give them more power in Lebanon's political system.

Both fighters and residents expressed concern at Aoun's drive to expand his government's control into their territory. They feared he was trying to deprive them of the semi-autonomous mini-state they have set up.

"A new era is being born. He (Aoun) doesn't recognise

any force except himself. He wants to fight the whole world. He wants to put people under his command," said Raja Shubayeh, cardiologist at the Imam Hospital in Aley.

"Aoun should be deposed. He wants to kill people and become president by force. He thinks he is an emperor," said Abu Mazen, a PSP fighter.

At least 62 people have been killed and more than 200 injured in the latest battles which engulfed Beirut, its outlying towns and the mountains.

The Druze mini-state comprising a cluster of villages

bordering the Falangist heartland was established in 1983 after PSP fighters drove about 200,000 Christians from the area.

The villages, a patchwork of white stone and red brick houses spread along snake-like roads and valleys, are now almost deserted. Women and children have moved to safer areas, leaving behind elderly men and fighters.

Shopkeeper Amin Aridi, 70, said: "This war is useless. All those ruling Lebanon are mad."

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.N. to check ceasefire violations

NICOSIA (R) — U.N. special envoy Marrack Goulding has toured the uneasy Gulf war ceasefire line to check alleged truce violations, Iran's official news agency IRNA said Tuesday. It said Goulding arrived Monday and visited the southern front near Ahvaz, meeting U.N. peacekeeping troops who arrived after an August truce ended eight years of bitter fighting. IRNA said Goulding, an envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, would examine obstacles to enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which are the basis of stalled peace talks between Tehran and Baghdad. He would also consider charges of truce violations. Both sides have reported minor incidents. Goulding visited the front with the head of the United Nations Iran-Iraq military observer group, Major General Slavko Joric.

### Kilbi elected to third term

TUNIS (AP) — Chadli Klibi was re-elected Tuesday to a third five-year term as secretary general of the Arab League. The 21 Arab League representatives unanimously voted for Klibi to continue in the post which he has held since 1979. Klibi, 64, former Tunisian education, culture and information minister, took over the job from Egyptian Mahmoud Riad when the Arab League moved its headquarters from Cairo to Tunis following Egypt's exclusion from the league for the Camp David Accord with Israel. The vote came at the start of the regular spring meeting of the Arab League's Ministerial Council.

### More rain for S. Yemen

NICOSIA (R) — More downpours look set to lash South Yemen in the next few days after flood caused by heavy rain killed 21 people and made 50,000 homeless this week. Weathermen in the Gulf said Tuesday that rain sweeping south was likely to drench the normally parched Arabian Peninsula, especially in Red Sea areas and the southern Gulf. South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, has appealed for international aid after rain battered central regions.

### Assad vows to help hostages

NEW YORK (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said his country has in the past helped to arrange the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon and hopes to help free more. Time Magazine reported Sunday. But Assad said in an interview with the weekly news magazine that he does not know where the hostages are being held or who their kidnappers are. Syria has been the main power broker in Lebanon since it sent thousands of troops there in 1976 to stop civil war. "A number of the hostages have been released with our help, but we could not help all of them. We hope in the future our efforts will help all of them as it has helped those in the past," Assad said.

### U.S. denies it knows bomber identity

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft Monday denied that the United States had pinpointed the organisation that blew up a Pan Am jet over Scotland last December, killing 270 people. The London Sunday Times said U.S. investigators had "discovered" that the group which blew up Pan Am flight 103 from London to New York were from a hardline Palestinian group opposed to Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "So far as I know, we are not that far along," Scowcroft told a television interviewer. "As far as I know, we are narrowing them (possible suspects) down significantly. But I don't know that there is a resolution." Police in Scotland, West Germany and the United States last week denied British newspaper reports that the Pan Am bombers had been identified.

### Sudan appeals for help

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan Monday appealed for help in fighting an outbreak of the disease meningitis which has killed 102 people in the past two weeks. Sadeq Mahjoub Al Tayeb at the Endemic and Epidemic Department of the Sudanese Health Ministry said 2,548 people caught meningitis in and around the capital Khartoum since the spread of the disease last December. He said a total of 250 died, 102 of them during the period March 10-24. "We have appealed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) to assist the Sudan in combating the disease," he said. Early this month, Western health officials said an outbreak of meningitis that had taken heavy casualties in Ethiopia had spread into southern Sudan and claimed 400 lives.

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE WANTED

An established institution requires the services of a senior executive to supervise research and programs developments in industry. The selected candidate shall also coordinate activities with international organizations. Candidate should have MBA in Business Administration and 10 years work experience preferably in industry.

Qualified candidates may submit applications with a current C.V. to P.O.Box: 20717 / Amman - Jordan.

Salary will be commensurate with qualification. Indicate on envelope: Application for vacancy.

Applications are receivable by April 15, 1989.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children's programmes  
17:15 ..... Programme on plants  
17:20 ..... Out of World  
18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
18:05 ..... Cairo News Message  
18:15 ..... Arabic series  
19:00 ..... Local programme  
19:30 ..... Common mistakes  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:35 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Wrestling  
22:30 ..... Varieties programme  
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Programme (cont.)

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... French varieties  
18:00 ..... News in French  
18:15 ..... Ajlouni but en Jordanie  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
21:10 ..... Life with Lucy  
21:15 ..... Documentary  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Booklet

### PRAYER TIMES

06:05 ..... Fajr  
05:55 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:40 ..... Dhuhur  
15:11 ..... 'Asr  
17:56 ..... Maghrib

## CHURCHES

19:14 ..... 15th

Stt. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
63785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
637440.  
De la Saille Church Tel. 661757  
Terzian Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.  
628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
71131.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.  
775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751.  
Armenian Lutheran Church Tel.  
665326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
811295.  
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-  
Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of  
Meteorology.

The effect of the cold air mass is  
expected to decrease gradually this  
afternoon. Therefore, it will continue  
to be partly cloudy to cloudy and rainy  
at times with thunder storms in some  
parts of the kingdom. Winds will be

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

northwesterly moderate.  
In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy  
with a possibility of scattered showers  
of rain. Winds will be northerly moder-  
ate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 5 / 15  
Agaba ..... 5 / 16  
Deserts ..... 12 / 25  
Jordan Valley ..... 11 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-  
man 14, Agaba 25. Humidity readings:  
Amman 96 per cent, Agaba 44 per  
cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Kayed Abu Halaqeh ..... 793522  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad ..... 846070  
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr ..... 746426  
Dr. Basim Abu Riza ..... 635522  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055  
Najrouh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Jamal Bani Hani ..... (—)  
Al Sharaa pharmacy ..... (985238)

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 622090/93  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 65639091  
Public Security Department ..... 656000 / 685111  
Hotel Complaints ..... 608800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information ..... 12  
(directory assistance) ..... 17  
Overseas Calls ..... 625101  
Repairs ..... 661101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
Company ..... 08-53200  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-52000  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ..... 08-52000

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Alkheh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malha, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine Shmeiani ..... 6641714  
Shmeiani Hospital ..... 69131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Jalal, Al-Muhajreen ..... 771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 771112/6  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)883323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)91071  
Joz Sirra Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)222213  
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.  
Almonds ..... 750 / 650  
Apple ..... 300 / 400  
Banana ..... 350 / 300  
Banana (Mekammar) ..... 300 / 250  
Beans ..... 900 / 800  
Broad beans ..... 180 / 120  
Carrots ..... 110 / 70  
Cabbage ..... 210 / 160  
Cauliflower ..... 130 / 100  
Cucumbers ..... 320 / 260  
Dates ..... 300 / 400  
Eggplant ..... 300 / 250  
Garlic ..... 360 / 300  
Grapefruit ..... 360 / 300  
Lemon ..... 100 / 70  
Lettuce (per one) ..... 170 / 120  
Marrow (large) ..... 300 / 250  
Marrow (small) ..... 400 / 350  
Orange (Shamouni) ..... 320 / 260  
Orange (local) ..... 250 / 200  
Onion (dry) ..... 160 / 120  
Onion (green) ..... 300 / 250  
Peas ..... 300 / 250  
Pepper (hot) ..... 200 / 150  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 340 / 280  
Potato ..... 110 / 80  
Spinach ..... 2000 / 1600  
Strawberry ..... 250 / 200

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:10 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
09:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)  
17:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
17:05 ..... Paris (RJ)  
17:30 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)  
17:45 ..... London, Geneva (RJ)  
17:55 ..... Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)  
00:20 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
09:40 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Medina, Jeddah (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
14:10 ..... Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
11:30 .....





**ROYAL VISIT:** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday visited the Ministry of Tourism and met with Minister Yanaal Hikmat and ministry Secretary General Naezi Atallah. The Prince was briefed on the ministry's programmes and developments in the Kingdom's tourism industry.

## Jordanian industrial fair opens in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday opened an industrial fair here displaying samples of various nationally manufactured products.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad Al Nahayan opened the week-long fair in which 90 Jordanian businesses are displaying samples of industrial, pharmaceutical, engineering, supply and agricultural products as well as traditional handicrafts.

The fair is part of Jordanian week-long activities which include cultural and artistic functions reflecting the national cultural and folklore heritage.

Jordan's ambassador to the UAE Zuhair Sakikjha and senior UAE officials were present at the opening ceremony. Sakikjha said later that the idea of the fair, which was created here last year during the first Jordanian cultural week, is designed to increase the volume of trade between Jordan and the UAE, and to open the way for joint venture.

The two countries are currently holding contacts to set up a joint committee to help organise economic and trade relations between them along the lines of other agreements between Jordan and Arab states, Sakikjha noted.

An official from the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation which organised the fair said that the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Housing Bank, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company, the Water Authority of Jordan, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Natural Resources Authority and the Royal Scientific Society are taking part in the fair alongside the private sector's businesses, displaying samples of their own products.

The fair in Abu Dhabi is the first of its kind to be held in the UAE. Jordan has already displayed samples of its industrial products in Egypt, Tunisia and Oman, and continues to participate in the annual international fairs held in Damascus and Baghdad.

The Housing Bank has opened an office at the site of the fair in Abu Dhabi to provide information on Jordan's economic, industrial, cultural, tourist, educational and artistic development. The office distributes publications, leaflets and guidebooks about Jordan, and presents documentary film shows and recordings featuring cultural life in the Kingdom.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**JPA PRAISES AL HUSSEIN:** The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Tuesday voiced pride in His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership and his untiring efforts to support the pan-Arab causes and unify Arab ranks. In a cable to King Hussein, the newly elected president and board members lauded the distinguished and sincere efforts made by the King and the other Arab leaders of Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, saying that their efforts have culminated in the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council. They also pledged to be loyal and honest in dealing with the national and pan-Arab causes. (Petra).

**MILITARY ISSUES:** Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh Tuesday received at his office the visiting Iraqi military delegation headed by General Sultan Hashem Ahmad on issues of interest to the armed forces in both Iraq and Jordan. (Petra).

**STAMPS:** Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, the Soviet Cultural Centre and the Jordan Philatelic Club Thursday hold the Jordanian-Soviet stamps exhibition at Alia Art Gallery. (Petra).

**OPEN FORUM:** The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Association for the Education of the Child holds an open forum Wednesday to discuss the modern methods of teaching kindergarten children and pre-school programmes and activities. The meeting will be attended by kindergarten teachers from Amman area. (Petra).

**LECTURE:** British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve Tuesday delivered a lecture on the Jordanian-British relations at the Jordan Intercontinental hotel. The lecture was organised by the Amman Rotary Club. (J.T.).

**FAREWELL:** Ministers of Information and Industry and Trade Tuesday received the French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Lecroq, who called at both ministers to bid farewell at the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. Information Minister Hani Khasawneh also received the Australian Ambassador to Jordan Graham Robert Bowker. (Petra).

**ROTARIANS:** Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan 650 Rotarians will hold a three-day regional conference starting Thursday March 30 at the Royal Cultural Centre. The Rotarians will include Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Bahrain, Cyprus and Sudan. (Petra).

**FIRST CLASS:** "Lufthansa First Class for an extra DM 80" — this offer to Lufthansa Business-Class passengers in Europe is valid up to the end of May. From March 20, they can move up a class for DM 80 per flight (or the equivalent in national currency). With the exception of Eastern Europe and Malta, the offers applies to all European routes. (J.T.).

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Lwaildeh.
- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Wasfi Tal Industrial School, Irbid.

### SEMINAR

- ★ A seminar with Prof. Dr. Dieter Weiss, Professor of Middle East Economics at the Free University in Berlin at the Royal Scientific Society — 3:00 p.m.

## ICDO, UNPRO sign agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) and the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNPRO) recently signed an agreement on cooperation in relieving victims of natural disasters according to Lieutenant-General Khaled Tarawneh.

Civil Defence Department Director Tarawneh, who heads the ICDO's executive council said that under the agreement both organisations will exchange publications and hold training programmes to provide relief services to victims of natural disasters around the world.

Tarawneh who attended the meeting when the agreement was signed said that Jordan has been active in the ICDO activities which involved training of personnel to provide civil defence services.

## Saudi fund director tours valley

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Development Fund, Mr. Mohammad Al Saghir, Tuesday toured the Jordan Valley region, inspecting road projects and agricultural schemes carried out by the public sector.

Accompanied by the secretary general of the Ministry of Public Works Khalaf Hwari and Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani, Saghir visited Ghor Haditha's Zaza road project, and a major irrigation project in the southern regions of the Jordan Valley, and was briefed on the two schemes.

Later, he called at Ghor Al Safi area and inspected a JVA project to benefit from rain water collected in wadis and valleys to expand the agricultural land.

The Saudi fund has provided loans for these projects.

## Roads claim 8 lives last week

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of eight people were killed and 122 others injured in 278 road accidents in Jordan during the past seven days, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the traffic department Tuesday. The bulletin said most of the accidents were caused by drivers disregarding traffic rules and that 80 people were knocked down as a result of these accidents causing their death or injury.

## AOAS board convenes

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day meeting by the executive board of the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) which opened here Monday has reviewed the organisation's achievements in the past year and studied the 1988 final accounts and a general report on administrative activities.

Among the questions discussed at Tuesday's session were outstanding matters connected with the organisation's former headquarters in Cairo. The board endorsed a general strategy for the organisation to be carried out between 1990 and 1995, according to an AOAS official.

## Egyptian official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Ministry of Industry's First Under Secretary Youssef Mazhar arrived in Amman Tuesday at the beginning of a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on means of further developing bilateral economic relations.

## Symposium discusses crime against women

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A one-day symposium on women vis-a-vis crime and punishment held at the Amman Plaza hotel Tuesday heard the views of specialists who maintained that crimes connected to women in Jordan were at a low level compared with those committed in other Arab and foreign countries.

The symposium, organised by the Arab Women Graduates Club (AWGC) was addressed by Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan who deputised for Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and reviewed working papers dealing with various forms of crimes.

One of the working papers presented by a representative of the Public Security Department (PSD) said that between 1984 and 1988, a total of 89,154 crimes were committed in the Kingdom, 67 per cent of which were related in some form or another to women. Crimes involving women, the paper said, ranged from rape, theft, physical assault

and moral offences. There was a noticeable increase in assaults on women during 1983 with the total accounting for 52 per cent of all crimes committed in Jordan during that year, the paper pointed out. It said that women aged 18 to 27 were found to have been involved in 55 per cent of the total crimes which affected Jordanian and non-Jordanian women.

AWGC President Mawiyah Al Bakri maintained that crimes involving women in the country were very limited in number compared with crimes of the same type in other countries, thanks to PSD efforts and to a general good moralistic behaviour that dominates the Jordanian society.

One of the working papers dealt with the killing of women for their involvement in immoral behaviour and another, covered rape cases. The two papers outlined circumstances in which such crimes have been committed, legislations governing such crimes and penalties imposed on the offenders and murderers.

## 64 Italians in Jordan for 4-day safari tour

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 64 Italian tourists arrived in Aqaba Tuesday for a several-day safari tour of Jordan during which they are expected to tour most of the Kingdom in their specially designed Fiat Panda cars.

The group, the first of its kind from Italy to come to Aqaba under a special programme prepared by the Ministry of Tourism, are expected to spend four days in the country. The group will visit Aqaba, Wadi Rum and the southern desert before heading to the eastern desert Wednesday to camp there. Following that, the group will take the desert highway to Qatraneh, Karak and Wadi Araba and then head to Petra for an overnight camping stay.

Members of the group are also scheduled to spend two days in Aqaba before departing for Rome from the port city.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Ministry of Tourism held a welcome reception for the 64 tourists and prepared a tour programme. For them, Petra said the group will tour archaeological and touristic sites around the Kingdom.

Their visit comes in the context of efforts by both the private and public sector to promote Jordan as a destination for various activities from the sun and fun of the beach to the lavish banquets in historic castles around the Kingdom.

Earlier this month, Petra quoted ministry officials as saying

## Attiga hails ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the coordinator of the U.N. activities of Jordan, Ali Attiga Tuesday said that the programme maintains close cooperation with the Jordanian government and that the programme plans to further enhance such cooperation during the fifth development programme cycle which starts in 1991.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra Attiga said the UNDP is currently in the process of undertaking an evaluation study of the fourth programme in Jordan, with a view to ensuring the highest degree of

coordination between the UNDP and the Jordanian authorities.

He pointed out that the evaluation process, which will be completed in October, is designed to enhance the U.N. agencies role in Jordan through coordinating their respective activities.

Speaking on the UNDP activities in Jordan, Attiga said that the fourth programme cycle (1988-1991) has allocated \$10 million for development projects in Jordan, including human resources development, support for the production sector and transfer of science and technology.

He pointed out to the UNDP's cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society in the transfer of technology.



Her Majesty Queen Noor places a wreath on the Iraqi martyrs' monument during Her Majesty's visit to Iraq that ended Tuesday.

## Queen Noor returns after three-day visit to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday returned home after a three-day visit, to the Iraqi capital Baghdad during which she discussed with Iraqi officials ways of developing cultural exchange and expertise between the two countries.

Upon her arrival at Marka airport Tuesday afternoon, Queen Noor was received by His Majesty King Hussein. In Baghdad, Queen Noor was met by Mrs. Saddam Hussein and by the wife of the Deputy President of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) Mrs. Izzat Ibrahim.

The Queen was also met by wives of RCC members and cabinet ministers in addition to Jordan's ambassador to Iraq and his wife. During her stay in Baghdad, Queen Noor visited the Iraqi Martyrs' Monument where she

placed a wreath of flowers and read the Fatiha. The Queen paid tribute to the Iraqi people for their noble sacrifices and courage in defending their country and the Arab Nation. Queen Noor also made a tour of the Baghdad city and visited the royal cemetery.

Mrs. Saddam Hussein held a dinner banquet in honour of Her Majesty, which was attended by President Saddam's daughters in addition to wives of the RCC members and Iraqi cabinet ministers.

Queen Noor also visited the Saddam Arts Centre which houses over 5,000 pieces of art works by Iraqi artists, including paintings, ceramic work and sculpture.

The Queen visited the Iraqi house of traditional fashions and attended a special show of Iraqi costumes. The Iraqi house of traditional fashion displayed its traditional costumes at the 1985 Jerash Festival in Jordan.

Queen Noor also visited the Al Qadisiyah Kindergarten and was briefed on the kindergarten's programmes for children by Iraq's general director of social educational and awareness.

The Queen was accompanied by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director General In'am Al Mufti and Mrs. Noor Izzidine.

## India to explore joint industrial ventures in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The under secretary of the Indian Ministry of Trade R. Renjen said Tuesday that a group of Indian industrialists will visit Jordan in June to explore the possibility of launching Jordanian-Indian industrial ventures in the Kingdom.

The Indian official made the statement at a meeting here with Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan with whom he reviewed Indian-Jordanian trade links and prospects for increasing the volume of exchanged goods.

The two sides reviewed areas where joint ventures can be launched with particular attention on equipment maintenance and a

plant to process phosphoric acid, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Kanaan briefed the visitor and his accompanying delegation on recent monetary and financial measures in the Kingdom and said that Jordan was keen on promoting bilateral cooperation in economic and trade affairs.

Mr. Renjen is heading the Indian side to the joint Jordanian-Indian committee meetings which started here Monday. The committee resumed meetings Tuesday and discussed the question of adjusting the balance of trade between India and Jordan which is heavily in favour of Jordan.

The committee also discussed joint ventures including India's involvement in building a railway to link Aqaba port with the Shidiq phosphate mine in southern Jordan.

Mr. Renjen and his delegation met earlier with the president and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss trade matters. Renjen focused on the prospect of opening the Jordanian market for Indian products especially equipment and machinery.

The Indian team later toured the permanent industrial exhibition and inspected samples of Jordanian industrial products.



**MOROCCAN GUEST:** Visiting speaker of the Moroccan Parliament Ahmad Asaman Tuesday called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met its president Jawad Al Anani who outlined RSS's projects and services. Asaman who was accompanied by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said his country would like to benefit from Jordan's experiences in science and technology fields and their applications. He watched a documentary film featuring the RSS's development, the work of various sections and services to the Arab World.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## Lesson from Turkey

THE results of the municipal elections in Turkey illustrate that bread and butter issues are paramount in the minds of voters in Turkey and elsewhere. The runaway inflation that has reached an annual rate of over 70 per cent in Turkey has hit the Turkish economy and the pockets of the average Turkish citizen with vengeance, and in the process caused havoc in the social, economic and political fabrics of the nation. Obviously one track-minded macro-economist who counselled a one dimensional approach to Turkey's economic woes bear the brunt of the responsibility for the results in Turkey's municipal elections. The fatal error that they had committed was in prescribing policy measures that turned economic and fiscal problems into political ones. Thus, there is a message in all this for all macro-economists who often press for economic and fiscal policies which are sound and proper in their own right but devastating in their cumulative and overall effects. What countries suffering from economic malaises need most is multi-dimensional approaches and panaceas to avoid plunging themselves into deeper woes that transcend economic and fiscal considerations. Upper most on the minds of economists must be the overall stability and security of the country to which they offer their advice and consent. To fiddle with the harmony of a nation is tantamount to needlessly igniting fires that could consume all. The peculiar circumstances and conditions of each and every country must weigh heavily on the conscious and reasoning of all those who extend a helping hand. In this context inflationary trends caused by a string of necessary economic and fiscal policies aimed to correct irregularities in the economy of a developing country must not be allowed to reach bread and butter issues that affect the average citizen. Accordingly, basic food prices must be maintained even if that entails heavy subsidies. It is too obvious that the alternative to such a course is too dreadful to contemplate. Surely economic experts would see that such a choice is a lesser evil than the one that may have to be dealt with should basic needs of citizens be also affected by high inflationary trends. To sum up, all those who are kind enough to want to help a country help itself are kindly invited to see the total picture and not just bits and pieces. No developing country can afford the luxury of abstract experimentations.



## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE situation in Lebanon is the subject of Al Ra'i's editorial Tuesday. The paper described as appalling the current situation in Beirut and the surrounding areas, and said that innocent people are falling victim to the greed of the warring factions and their leaders. This madness, the paper said, should not be allowed to continue; and therefore, the Arab countries through the Arab League mediation mission, ought to find a speedy solution. The paper said that the situation is worrying all Arabs who created the six member committee to try to end the fighting and open the way for peace and therefore, this committee should now insist on a ceasefire to save the Lebanese people from death and then continue its efforts for a lasting solution. There is nothing impossible to achieve if the concerned parties are really interested in peace, the paper noted. It said that the committee members have already overcome several obstacles, but they have a responsibility to save innocent people from death and an Arab capital from total destruction.

Al Dustour daily newspaper also commented on the situation in Lebanon which, it said, is getting out of hand due to the stubbornness of the warring factions. The paper said that the Arab mediation committee is now counted on to find a solution to the problem and an end to the fighting as a first step to build bridges of understanding and trust. But the Arab committee which has been striving to arrange a ceasefire and which remains as the only hope for peace in Lebanon can do nothing to bring peace and achieve its mission unless there is genuine and sincere desire on the part of all factions and parties to reach a settlement, the paper noted. It said that the members of the committee have been patient and pursuing their mission with great care and diligence, but the Lebanese leaders seem to be indifferent to its work; and instead, have been preferring confrontation rather than negotiation. It said that there can be no end to the ordeal of the Lebanese people unless the heads of the factions placed their country's interest above all others.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the opening of a conference on bio-technologies in Amman with the participation of 11 Arab countries. This scientific conference emphasises the important role of science and technology in development and the subjects being discussed by participants stand out as a witness of the concern of Arab countries to develop their economies and promote their industries, the paper said. Jordan for its part showed ample interest in the meeting by presenting several working papers and taking part in all the discussions which are designed to give impetus to research centres which in turn can benefit socio-economic development in the country, the paper noted. It said that cooperation among Arab states in scientific and technological fields is bound to give a real boost to the development process now going on in the Arab World.

## Who benefits from arms trade?

By Riad Al Khouri

STATES have always relied on military forces to further their interests and enhance security, and this will probably remain the case. But where are the legitimate and reasonable limits of spending on defence, and what are the economic consequences of the spiralling arms buildup everywhere in the world today? Fifty years ago European politicians summed up the problem in the catch-phrase "guns or butter," the idea being that the more of an economy's resources were devoted to armaments, the less would be available for satisfying consumer needs. Nevertheless, rich countries today can afford both guns and butter, but what about poorer, developing states? The press is full of reports of huge arms purchases by Middle East and other Third World countries which are either short of cash, or have pressing development problems, or both. The underdeveloped states continue to spend massive amounts on weapons, to the immense satisfaction of the world's rich. The simple fact is that manufacturing and trading in arms is big business. Internationally only oil and tourism are in the same league as armaments. But it now seems that the international arms trade is going through a rough period. According to Wolfgang Hoffman, writing in the West German Die Zeit "after an arms boom in the 1960's and 1970's the trade has marked time in the 1980's." The NATO states have been overproducing arms, a problem that has only been papered over by increasing reliance on exports. Western countries account for 15 to 20 per cent of arms imports, the Warsaw Pact for about 10 per cent, and the Third World for 70 to 75 per cent. Hoffman notes that the Western share of the market is not big because Western industrial states have arms factories of their own and are largely independent of the Americans who remain the world's

leading weapon exporters. West Germany, the West's biggest arms importer, produces 85 per cent of its own weapons needs, up from 50 per cent in the 60's. But West Germany and other Western states need, for reasons of cost-effectiveness, to produce arms in larger quantities than they themselves require. They therefore have no choice but to export. Among the increasing number of countries which manufacture more arms than are needed to meet their own requirements are France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, and the overall arms output of the NATO states is about 30 per cent higher than their needs.

There is not only competition between countries for exports; individual manufacturers also vie fiercely with each other. For example, eight firms in six NATO states make air-to-air missiles, sixteen firms in seven states manufacture air-to-ground missiles, and ten firms in seven states produce air-to-sea missiles. (The Warsaw Pact has fewer such problems since weapons systems are carefully standardised). So the West continued to overproduce weapons, and as long as purchasing power in the Third World in general and the oil-exporters in particular was maintained, disposing of this surplus was no problem. The volume of arms sales to the Third World doubled during the 60s and then quadrupled in the 70s. But this trend is unlikely to continue with developing countries deep in debt and oil revenues going down. And to make competition tighter, Argentina, Brazil, China and the two Koreas, among other more advanced developing countries, are beginning to produce weapons on a large scale.

Unfortunately, the Middle East looms very large in the international arms equation. The combination of big amounts of

surplus cash and hot and cold wars means that the region is an arms salesman's dream. The British are among the world's largest and most sophisticated weapon manufacturers and 75 per cent of their arms exports go to the Middle East. The U.K. government has even set up a special company to provide export finance service for manufacturers of armaments. The list of arms deals between the West and the countries of this region gets longer as tension mounts within and around many states which are not really at war. Given the siege mentality in some of the countries of the region, this will cut into development expenditure as nervous governments prefer to maintain spending on weapons to cope with real or imagined internal or external threats. Obviously, a certain amount of defence spending is essential for any country. Equally obvious is the fact that increasing violence and spreading tension are good for businessmen (and governments) in the West who manufacture and export arms.

Could it, therefore follow that the West has an interest in maintaining war and warlike activity in the Middle East? True, the West contains more than just weapons salesmen, but the fact remains that tension in our region is making a lot of people in Western Europe and North America richer.

Meanwhile the waste and destruction in the Middle East go on. From an economic point of view the money that is often spent on inappropriate and expensive weapons systems could go to sectors and countries in the region which are starved of cash. In the long run, building another school or university will do a lot more to defend and develop the Middle East than buying ever more deadly and hopelessly sophisticated weapons.

## Substance not formalities

By Susan Hattis Rolef

MOST Israelis were extremely upset and disturbed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that the recent attempt by the armed Palestinians intercepted in southern Lebanon to get to Israel was not an act of terrorism justifying a U.S. decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO.

Technically speaking, the new secretary of state was right. When the Palestinians were intercepted and killed, all they could be accused of was attempted infiltration. To have supported an accusation of terrorism, they would have had to be carrying specific plans which would indicate that their target was civilian; to have actually placed explosives or thrown a bomb in a public place with the aim of killing and maiming passers-by; or to have attempted to take hostages. They might, of course, have been on their way to attack a military vehicle or camp, in which case their acts could have been defined as "guerrilla warfare." So much for technical definitions.

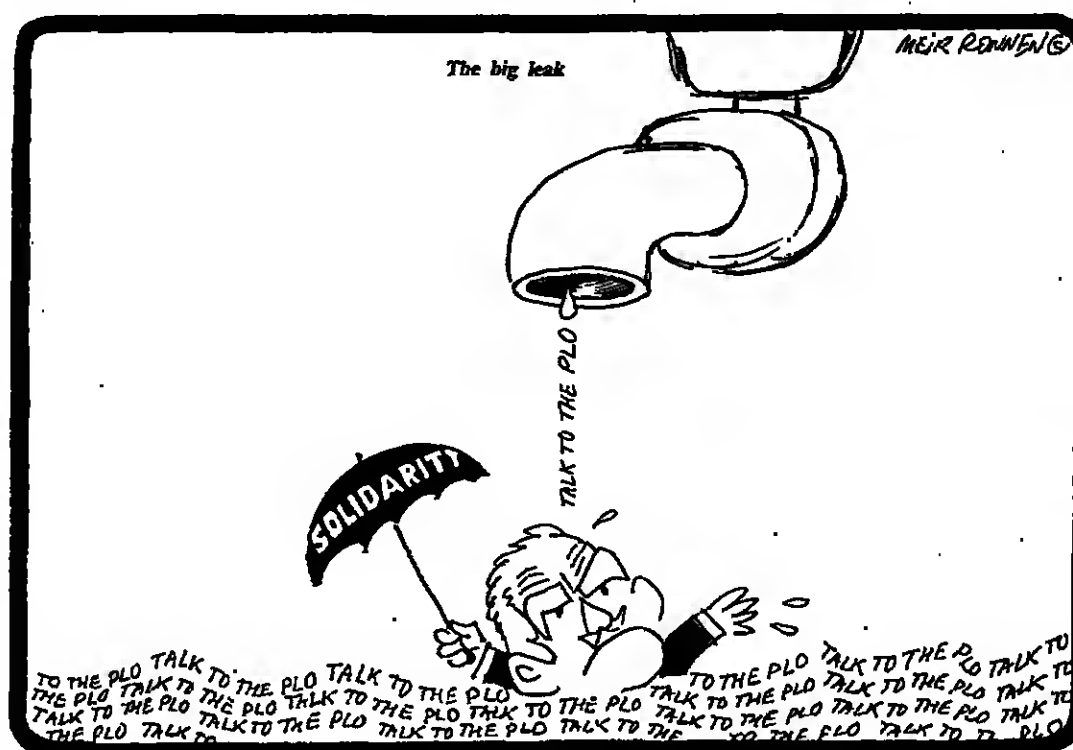
In point of fact, it is doubtful whether Baker was really concerned with definitions of "Who's a terrorist." What he was trying to do was to get the U.S. out of a corner.

The previous administration had, inter alia, conditioned its dialogue with the PLO on the latter's abstaining from terrorist acts. The new administration is apparently eager to continue the dialogue, no matter what. So the only way it could get around the problem of the intercepted Palestinians—a problem created by Israel's insistence on bringing the event to its attention—was either to go back on the original conditions, or to deny that the conditions had been violated. Baker chose to do the latter.

When Henry Kissinger first conditioned U.S. contacts with the PLO on its acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and its renunciation of terrorism, Israel considered this a major diplomatic victory. At the time, Israel would have preferred a straightforward American declaration that the PLO was not a partner for negotiations no matter what. But since this was not possible, the declaration of conditions was a welcome second best, especially since it was not believed that the PLO would ever fulfil them.

Israel itself over stated that it would talk to the PLO under certain conditions; and to the present day, official Israeli policy is an unqualified rejection of any contacts.

This policy makes sense if one denies the existence of a Palestinian national movement; refuses to consider giving up a single inch of "Eretz Yisrael" in any circumstances; and views the PLO as being bent on the liquidation of Israel as a Jewish state. In that case, it makes no difference whether the PLO is or is not a terrorist organisation, whether its leaders are or are not trustworthy, and whether it does or does not recognise Israel's right to exist.



in order to try to influence its conduct and find out at first hand whether there is any possibility of ever reaching an agreement with it?

The American experience demonstrates the shortcomings of the first approach. If one sets pre-conditions for talks with the PLO and they are all fulfilled, one has no alternative but to open talks, even if the timing does not seem opportune. In fact, one is handing the initiative over to the PLO.

On the other hand, one can imagine circumstances in which the PLO refuses to budge, but Israel considers it tactically or strategically a good idea to express willingness to have truck with it. In such a situation, Israel might find the pre-conditions an embarrassment, as did Secretary of State Baker. The setting of pre-conditions might, however, play a tactical role.

This is precisely the role of preconditions in the rhetoric of the so-called Israeli peace camp. Most of the spokesmen of this camp have laid down a list of pre-conditions for talks with the PLO which seems to grow longer

the more forthcoming the Palestinian organisation becomes.

The original conditions were that the PLO recognise Israel; accept Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; renounce terrorism and amend or replace the Palestine National Charter. To these have been added lately the demand for a moratorium on the use of force; the abandonment of the claim for the "right of return"; and a declaration by any settlement reached between Israel and the Palestinians will be final.

Since everyone knows that, for the time being, the peace camp is not in power and cannot formally lay down pre-conditions for Israel's opening negotiations with the PLO, its enunciation of these pre-conditions must be seen for what they really are.

In the first place, the peace camp needs to legitimise its own positions and activities, in order to prove to the Israeli public that its motives are patriotic and its primary concern is for Israel's security and national interests. Secondly, it seeks to defuse the concrete fears of that part of the Israeli public which does not object to contacts with the PLO on

principle but remains justifiably suspicious of it, by getting the PLO itself to ally these fears.

The problem with this second aim is that there is no guarantee that the peace camp will actually manage to turn a majority of the Israeli public into active supporters of talks with the PLO, and the PLO, after responding to all the pre-conditions, is liable to feel cheated.

Thus instead of hedging, those who understand that talks with the PLO are inevitable (and some of these, incidentally, may be pessimistic about their outcome), ought to concentrate on convincing the public that the potential Israeli participants in such talks have no intention of compromising Israel's security or giving up any of its legitimate demands and requirements. They must also be certain that such talks will bring Israel both tactical and strategic gains.

In the final reckoning, it matters much more what we shall talk about and what sort of settlement will emerge, than whom we talk to and with whom we finally reach a settlement — The Jerusalem Post.

## Ozal appears to have lost magic touch

By John Owen-Davies  
Reuter

ANKARA — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, humiliated in municipal elections, appears to have lost the magic touch that once saw him riding a wave of popularity expounding bold ideas for modernising Turkey.

As Monday dawned it became that his Motherland Party was no longer dominant and that the Ozal era, marked by economic liberalisation and a turning to the West, may be ending.

"He knew that the odds were against him in poll and that the old magic was not working," a party member said.

The Motherland Party trailed two others in vote-counting from Sunday's national local polls, a key test of Ozal's popularity amid discontent over rampant inflation.

"Perhaps Ozal can leave office and politics even before an early (general) election," political columnist Gurek Civeoglu wrote in Sabah newspaper, reflecting the mood of many Turks.

Ozal has achieved much since he came to power as a technocrat in 1983 army-supervised elections after three years of military rule which crushed extremist violence and political activism.

"He has set in motion changes that are basically irreversible, especially on the financial side," said a Western diplomat.

But Ozal has lost his lustre. He showed little enthusiasm in campaigns for the local polls and his television addresses lacked their usual sparkle.

The Social Democrat Populist Party led in vote-counting with the centre-right True Path Party (DYP) second and Motherland trailing third.

Ozal seemed relaxed as he toured Ankara with his wife in their white Mercedes after polling, chatting to people in the street.

The stocky 61-year-old conservative, who applied in 1987 for full Turkish membership of the European Community, described himself to Reuters last year as a politician with gut instincts.

"I get a feeling in my stomach and I know it is right," he said. But in voting for mayors and assemblies in 2,000 cities and towns on which he tacitly staked his career, his instincts appear to have failed him.

"Ever since his heart operation in 1987 he has appeared to lose some enthusiasm for centre-stage politics," a Motherland source said.

A brief respite came after Ozal, a workaholic who sleeps five hours a night, was shot in the hand in an assassination attempt last June.

Party sources said Ozal, who started on the right and drifted to the centre, has been worn down by strife between his party's religious right and Western-style liberal wings. He favoured the liberals and made them dominant in the cabinet.

In the past year, as inflation rose briefly to 87 per cent, he became irritated with the party and turned to his family, including his influential wife Semra and two cabinet ministers, for advice.

The party was tainted by scandal in January when Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem resigned in the wake of banking irregularities in which he denied any wrongdoing.

Ozal's brother, State Minister Yusuf Ozal, took over the economic helm from Erdem and locked horns with the economic bureaucracy.

"Ozal was always able to appeal to the people that he was the only person capable of maintaining stability in Turkey," a diplomat said. "That was true up to the beginning of 1988. Now there are others also capable."

From the start Ozal had to struggle, mainly with the army establishment which had favoured another conservative party led by retired General Turgut Sunal for the 1983 election.

But he won the respect of President Kenan Evren, though they were at odds on some issues.

Ozal, spurred on by his family, has harboured ambitions for the presidency when Evren's seven-year term ends next November. But the present election setback may differ such plans.

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# Sacred and secular writings

LONDON — An outstanding exhibition in London, which brings together many rare and beautiful examples of calligraphy, some dating back over a thousand years, is being hailed as the most important event of its kind to be held in the English capital for years.

"Islamic Calligraphy: Sacred and Secular Writings" contains rare and beautiful examples drawn from Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, India and Africa, from both galleries and private collections. The exhibition, which also received great acclaim last year in Geneva and Dublin will transfer to Zurich and Amman later in 1989, after closing in London.

Speaking at the opening ceremony in London, Prince Amyn Aga Khan, brother of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, said that of all art forms "Calligraphy holds pride of place as the foremost and perhaps most characteristic of the modes of visual expression in Islam." The tradition of calligraphy "started with the earliest written versions of the Koran in the mid-seventh century, gained speed between the ninth and tenth centuries... knew a slight decline with the spread of printing throughout the Muslim

world, but basically enjoyed ten centuries of uninterrupted growth and splendour. It is a tradition which still endures today among Muslims scattered across the far reaches of the globe," said Prince Amyn.

"Script is a binding artistic and visual medium between Muslims, through the Koran, and also between the various peoples and minorities forming the Muslim Umma. It thus constitutes a formal expression of Islam's universality and of its universal aspirations," the prince added.

The art of writing was sanctified from the birth of Islam. The Prophet himself is believed to have said: "He who writes the basmalah will enter paradise without difficulty." His son-in-law Ali Ibn Abu Tabib, fourth caliph is credited with being one of the first and finest of all calligraphers. What made writing so important was the belief that the Holy Koran was the literal word of God, communicated to the Prophet. This belief caused calligraphy to absorb the creative genius which, in the West, went first into religious and then secular painting, sculpture and music. Calligraphy in Islam is truly the Queen of the Arts.

Western interest in Islamic calligraphy is relatively recent, whereas interest in other branches of Islamic art — rugs and painting for example — began long ago. Despite its undeniable importance, the idea that writing should act as the major receptacle for Islamic visual creativity is somehow hard for Westerners to appreciate. Perhaps one simple way to understand Islamic calligraphy is to draw an analogy — not with the visual art of the West, but with music, suggests David James, Islamic curator at Dublin's Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art. Music, like calligraphy, has its exact rules, system and method. But these alone will make neither a great pianist nor a great calligrapher. A touch of genius is required in both cases.

Calligraphers of old did not write with a quill or metal pen. They used a piece of cane or reed, cut in the marshes and left to lie for several weeks until supple enough to be sorted and trimmed for use. Young calligraphers were taught to identify a suitable piece of cane, to trim the nib and split the point to their personal requirement. A good pen was a cherished item. Sometimes it was handed on to a new

generation; sometimes it was buried with the calligrapher when he died. Apprentices also learned the secret of making ink, preparation of which took several days and involved many processes. Although techniques varied from one place to another, most inks were based on soot or lamp black mixed with water and gum Arabic. The ink made by the Persians, Indians and Turks remains as fresh and black today as when it was used several centuries ago.

The entry of printing into the Islamic world during the 18th and 19th centuries brought about the demise of the scribes as a professional class, but calligraphy as an art form was barely affected. Indeed, some of the finest calligraphy of Turkey and Iran was actually produced in the 19th century, long after the printed word had gained popular acceptance. Wherever the Arabic script is in use calligraphy continues to arouse enthusiasm and, in recent years, this enthusiasm has spread to the West. Exhibitions such as the one touring Europe until September, when it moves to Amman, do much to encourage interest and appreciation of this ancient art.

The Middle East



This talisman written in heavily stylised Kufic scripts consists of three separate parts, at the top and bottom are triangular and semi-circular panels bearing standard formulae, used amongst other things, for warding off the evil eye. The talisman probably originated in India, 18th/19 century.



A page of calligraphy from Iran. Under the first line, the work bears the signature of Fath Ali Shah Qajar, ruler of Iran from 1797 to 1834. His first line, which reads "My reed pen shames Jupiter (Lord of the Planets) and Mercury (Scribe of the heavens)" is repeated three times. Such repetition was a familiar test of the calligrapher's ability.

## Anti-smoking campaigns create few ripples in tobacco industry

By Yasmin Arquiza  
The Associated Press

MANILA — Business is booming for the country's multimillion-dollar tobacco industry despite vigorous anti-smoking campaigns that include locking up errant smokers.

Both the government and the cigarette industry refuse to release sales figures. But Minda Gapuz, marketing manager of the national tobacco administration, said the government earned \$30 million in 1987 from tobacco exports. The figure is believed to have doubled last year.

About 50,000 Filipinos die each from smoking-related diseases, the Philippine Heart Centre for Asia says. Faced with that grim statistic, the department of health has endorsed legislation to ban cigarette advertising, limit sales outlets and prohibit cigarette sales to children under 16.

In addition, Philippine airlines has banned smoking on domestic flights. This month, Quezon city, the country's second-largest city, forbade smoking in most public places, and police locked up more than 300 offenders during the first two days of the ordinance.

President Corason Aquino has forbidden smoking during cabinet meetings and other indoor gatherings she attends. Gruff presidential security guards strictly enforce her decree.

But officials of the tobacco administration, which regulates the industry, say congress and the administration appear reluctant to crack down on such a lucrative industry.

Although the anti-smoking bill was approved by the senate on first reading last May, it has not been brought to the floor for a required second approval because of pressure from farmers and industry groups.

Gapuz said that in addition to tobacco export revenue, the government earns about \$704 million a year from cigarette taxes — an average of more than \$12 for each of the 58 million residents.

At least 100,000 farmers rely on tobacco as their cash crop, she said. Tobacco farmers, who are assured of a steady market, earn about double what they would receive for growing rice and corn.

"That's why the government cannot decide on whether to push through with this anti-smoking bill or not," Gapuz said.

In the meantime, the bill's supporters, including the action for children and smoking, have launched an aggressive advertising campaign to discourage smoking and pressure congress into acting on the measure.

"The passage of (the bill) will save lives of Filipino children, of whom 2.5 million, or 8 per cent, are projected by the (World Health Organisation) to be killed by cigarettes," Action for Children and Smoking said in a recent statement.

Gapuz said cigarette manufac-

turers have responded to public pressure by marketing more "light" brands, which contain less nicotine and tar. She said manufacturers were willing to print

health warnings, but they have yet to do so.

Gapuz predicted it would take at least five years before public health consciousness could begin

to cut deeply into sales because smoking remains fashionable here and elsewhere in the Third World.

Although smoking has declined

in Europe and the United States, Gapuz said tobacco consumption rose 2.9 per cent worldwide last year due to increased smoking in developing countries.



Evening outfit from Emanuel Ungaro, Paris. The printed metal matelassé was created by Abraham AG, Zurich.



Striking gala outfit from Emanuel Ungaro, Paris. The Swiss lamé embroidery, lavishly embellished with rhinestones and beads, is from the house of Jakob Schaefer + Co AG, St. Gall.

## The sophisticated look Ungaro, Laroche Valentino, yes, yes,

By Suzy Patterson  
The Associated Press

PARIS — A curvy sophisticated stepped into the shoes of Ungaro's favourite sex kitten in his luxury ready-to-wear show.

The slightly relaxed look was evident in many more Ungaro trousers, especially beautiful in gray flannel, glen plaids or caviar tweed — often with bolero or battle-jacket toppers.

Ungaro's brown leather or shiny eggplant-shaded crocodile battle jackets were nothing less than impeccable. He gave leather a big play, in all kinds of black jackets, pants and very long full skirts.

Fabrics and colours got hotter as the daytime wear turned into evening. But one unforgettable beauty was the superb silver-gray long redingote coat with satin lapels over a draped gray lace and lame top and stright glen plaid pants.

Royal blue, fuchsia and flame whipcord fitted suits with flaring skirts, or piped satin coat-dress outfits made striking cocktail-to-evening transitions.

And Ungaro offered wonderful choices for evening: the fitted, flowered brocade jackets with flowing black chiffon pants and blouses looked sumptuous. As usual, he mixed dressy materials like sequins, heavy lace and shocking pink taffeta in an outfit with a master's hand.

The Guy Laroche show featured two simple themes: tailored menswear lines for daytime, dressy and feminine clothes for later in the day.

After the show, Gny Douvier came out and took a bow with misty eyes. Laroche died in

February, and Angelo Tarlazzi will create the couture line while Douvier continues in ready-to-wear, which he has designed for some years now for Guy Laroche.

The straightforward collection featured lots of straight pants and skirts, topped by hooded full trapeze shetland coats in saffron orange, ochre and olive. Dressier coats shone in blazing red or royal blue, either cut with fullness or in long princess style with black velvet collars and buttons.

While suit and dress lengths and outlines were generally short and slim, the longer antracite wool suit with trumpet-flared skirt and diagonally-fastened jackets was an interesting variation.

At Laroche, as all over Paris, there was plenty of red, in sleek soft wool day dresses, in beautiful pleated chiffons for evening.

Valentino's show of opulent clothes was an exercise in couture for women who like to look like a million dollars, though this is officially ready-to-wear week.

The Valentino silhouette was sleek as usual. A delicately curved female form was clothed in skirts to the knee or mid-calf, lots of narrow or fullish pants, short or long jackets, often fitted with ribbed darts in back.

Patchwork was scattered liberally throughout the collection, a fascination Valentino shared with Christian Lacroix, though at neither house does it have any resemblance to relics from granny's closet.

Valentino's patchwork story unfolded in suede and calf for daytime, richer silks at night. The designs were in geometrics, flowers, diamonds in shades like

ochre and cognac or black-white-grey.

For evening, Valentino looked to his own art collection for inspiration from Eleonora de Toledo, by Bronzino. Like the portrait, his line of superb black velvets and silks were adorned by ruffled organza ruffs at the neck and sleeves.

The house of Lecoanet-Hemant offered a small group of dressy clothes that had the look of couture. But in the 800 to 1200-dollar price range they were a lot more reasonable than most of the expensive garments being shown this week, and just as stylish.

An outstanding black coat-dress done up with satin lapels, military-style gold buttons and braid was handsome enough to sit at the captain's table.

Suits with jagged insets of echantilly lace on short fitted jackets and sheath skirts cut just over the knee were pretty enough for lunch at Le Cirque or cocktails at the Ritz.

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# Study warns of hard landing for dollar, recession in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Failure to reduce the large U.S. trade deficit could provoke a collapse in foreign confidence in the dollar that would send interest rates soaring and tip the economy into recession, according to a new study.

The U.S. current account deficit, a broad measure of trade that includes both merchandise and financial exchanges, will rise to about \$150 billion in 1992, William Cline of the Institute for International Economics estimated in the study.

The institute is a private research group based in Washington.

Last year the current account deficit fell to \$135.33 billion from a record \$153.96 billion in 1987.

At the same time that the U.S. deficit would rise, the current account surplus of Japan and West Germany would grow to \$140 billion and \$85 billion respectively by 1992, if current policies and exchange rates continue, the study said.

Britain's deficit would rise to \$75 billion by 1992, the study, entitled American Trade Adjustment: The Global Impact, said.

Without new policy measures the U.S. deficit would never fall

below \$115 billion annually and would begin to rise again in the 1990s, Cline concluded.

"This outlook threatens a macroeconomic crisis from an eventual collapse of confidence by foreign investors, with a hard landing for both the dollar and the economy," Cline said.

"It condemns the economy to high interest rates to attract foreign financing, and thus prospectively low investment and growth. And it runs the risk of a renewed outbreak of protectionism," he added.

Reducing federal deficit spending to levels set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget law is essential to dampening domestic demand for foreign goods and thus reducing the trade deficit to

a sustainable \$50 billion, he said. Cline also said the dollar's value needed to fall by an average 10 per cent against a basket of currencies.

The decline should be concentrated against the yen and the mark, according to the Cline. He said it should fall by more than 25 per cent to about 100 yen and by more than 20 per cent to around 133 marks by the end of 1990.

Also, without realignments of the French franc and Italian lira against the mark by at least 10 per cent, external deficits in European countries other than West Germany could encourage protectionism once the single internal market is established in 1992, the study warned.

## 'IMF, World Bank fail in Africa'

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Africa should devise alternatives to the harsh International Monetary Fund (IMF) cures for the continent's economic ills, Adebayo Adedeji, head of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), said Monday.

Adedeji said in a speech that about 30 African countries had implemented structural adjustment programmes along guidelines recommended by the IMF and World Bank since the mid-1970s, but none had been successful.

"The countries which undertook the reform programmes did not register any remarkable improvement because of the programmes' very narrow scope in the treatment of the issue of development in Africa," he said.

"The monetarist approach of the World Bank and IMF programmes, their insensitivity to social, cultural and political realities in Africa as well as their adverse effects on the majority of the population, especially the poor and the vulnerable, have created

widespread dissatisfaction," he added.

Opening a meeting of economic experts to prepare for the annual ministerial conference of the ECA in Addis Ababa from April 6-10, Adedeji called on African governments to devise an alternative framework for structural adjustment.

"Let us not give succour to our detractors who have always argued that the problem with Africa is that its people are always receptive to other people's

ideas and do not generate their own," Adedeji said.

Earlier this month the ECA sponsored a meeting of African finance ministers in Malawi to consider proposals for an alternative to structural adjustment.

Conference sources said many of the ideas advanced there would be developed during the seven-day meeting of experts in Addis Ababa, which will set the agenda for next week's conference of finance and planning ministers.

## Japan flexes economic muscles in attack on Third World debt

TOKYO (R) — Japan has begun to flex its muscles as the world's biggest creditor nation, clearing the way for big changes in the U.S. strategy to tackle Third World debt.

Japanese officials said Tokyo worked closely with Washington on the new Third World debt plan announced by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

"We have been consulted closely by the U.S. financial authorities and U.S. proposals reflected input from us," said Finance Minister Tatsu Murayama.

Some economic development experts here see Japan spurring even larger changes in the debt strategy, possibly including a rethink in the way the International Monetary Fund (IMF) treats debtor nations.

In a significant shift in U.S. policy, Brady proposed a plan to substantially reduce the core debt burden of hard-pressed developing countries by using money from the World Bank and the IMF to reduce debt and guarantee interest payments.

The plan contains key elements of a scheme proposed by Tokyo last June but spurned by Washington at the time as a bail-out for the banks.

"I strongly support the U.S. proposals, including voluntary

market-based debt and debt service reduction," Murayama said. Japan plans to match its words by stepping up lending from its export-import bank to debtor nations in parallel with loans from the IMF.

Brady said his proposal could lead to agreement on an increase in IMF resources by the year's end, a step the U.S. opposed previously but which Japan has strongly advocated.

Tokyo hopes to use an increase in IMF resources to buy a bigger voting share for itself at the fund, commensurate with its economic strength.

Japan, which ranks fifth in the IMF, behind the United States, Britain, West Germany and

France, wants the number two spot as it has at the World Bank.

During a visit here last month, the chairman of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee, Onno Ruding, said he would back Tokyo's bid for a bigger vote at the IMF.

"I think that [Japan's] growing importance should be reflected... by a heavier role," said Ruding, who is also Dutch finance minister.

But he said he did not see this leading to any change in IMF's policies, including conditionality, which ties the disbursement of fund loans to the ability of debtor nations to meet agreed economic targets.

A senior Japanese finance

ministry official forcefully backed that policy last week.

"A good economic plan... is crucially important," said director general Makoto Utsunomiya. "Without that, they [debtor nations] cannot expect anything."

But some development experts here are more sympathetic to debtor nations' complaints about the IMF's approach.

"Sometimes we hear that very young officials of the IMF visit a country, meet the prime minister, finance minister and give some direction on how to run their countries, their economy," said former foreign minister Saburo Okita. "That is somewhat presumptuous."

## Tourism, tuna boost Seychelles

VICTORIA, Seychelles (R) — Tourism and tuna exports helped boost the Seychelles foreign exchange earnings to a record \$11.2 million (revenue) last year, according to central bank figures.

But higher debt payments sent the balance of payments plunging into deficit, it added.

The central bank said in its economic review of 1988 that

overall foreign exchange earnings rose nearly 20 per cent from 762.8 million rupees (\$136 million) in 1987.

But the overall balance of payments recorded a deficit of 20 million rupees (\$6.7 million) after a surplus of 17 million (\$3.0 million) in 1987 due to a heavy increase in foreign debt repayments, it added.

The central bank said revenue from tourism increased 16 per cent to 440 million rupees (\$85 million) in 1988 and accounted for 48 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) of these Indian ocean islands.

The GNP is the total of goods and services produced in the economy, including income from abroad.

The central bank said airlines and shipping earned 131 million rupees (\$25 million) of foreign exchange last year, 28 per cent more than in 1987.

Merchandise exports increased 250 per cent to 77 million rupees (\$14.8 million) last year thanks to

the opening of a new tuna canning factory in the capital Victoria, it added.

Tuna accounted for 73 per cent of the exports of this former British colony of 67,000 people, the central bank said.

The record foreign exchange earnings boosted the Seychelles balance of payments surplus on current account by 38 per cent to 94 million rupees (\$18.8 million) in 1988.

But the capital account plunged to a deficit of 114 million rupees (\$22.8 million) from a surplus of 106.4 million rupees (\$19 million) in 1987 due to higher debt service payments, giving an overall balance of payments deficit.

Imports rose 18 per cent last year to 355 million rupees (\$67 million) from 309 million (\$56 million) in 1987.

The Seychelles' gross external reserves fell by \$4 million to \$10.8 million last year — the equivalent of just six weeks' imports — it added.

## Qatar expects \$1.5 billion budget deficit

DOHA (AP) — Qatar announced Monday a new budget with a \$1.5 billion deficit and established a new fiscal year starting April 1, abolishing its previous budget practices based on the variable Islamic calendar year.

The emir's decree with the budget announcement, distributed by the Qatar News Agency (QNA), set expenditures at 11.48 billion riyals (\$3.1 billion) and projected revenues at 5.83 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion), leaving a deficit of 5.65 billion riyals (\$1.5 billion).

The agency said this reflected a retrenchment of the expenditures by 7.7 per cent from 12.44 billion riyals (\$3.4 billion) under the national budget which expired in January.

Last year's budget included a 6.11 billion riyal (\$1.67 billion) deficit.

Finance and Petroleum Minister Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani told QNA that the government would continue to streamline its expenditure and that government agencies were requested to operate within their budgets to help the government maintain control over its spending.

## Iraq starts production from 'Baghdad' oil field

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has started pumping crude oil and gas from a new oilfield close to the capital, Oil Minister Isam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said Tuesday.

Al Chalabi told reporters before flying to Vienna for an OPEC meeting that the 700-square kilometre field will produce 20,000 barrels a day of crude and 14 million cubic feet of gas when it is officially inaugurated.

The minister gave no date for inauguration of the field, which he said was the "largest to be operational since the ceasefire took effect."

Al Chalabi said the new oil field extends from the river Diyala 30 kilometres east of Baghdad to the Taji district around 10 kilometres north of the capital, but that its full capacity has not yet been ascertained.

Iraq started exploring for oil in the area in early 1970s using special drilling methods to avoid demolishing thousands of houses and farms in the district.

Al Chalabi said that only four per cent of the land was taken up by drilling and construction installations.

## Mining giant RTZ boosts '88 profits by 53 per cent

LONDON (R) — British-based RTZ Corp PLC, the world's leading mining group, has said that higher metal prices had set it off to a strong start this year after a successful 1988.

"RTZ enters 1989 in a very strong position," chief executive Derek Birkin said after the British-based group announced a 53 per cent rise in net attributable profit last year to a record \$427 million (\$734 million).

He said 1988 was a "momentous" year in which RTZ armed itself against a likely dip in some metal prices although he did not see a return to the lows seen during much of the 1980s.

"Prices, in our opinion, will not fall to a point where you cannot make good profits, particularly if you are highly cost effective," Birkin said.

"We think the base metals business in the 90s will be quite different than in the 80s because it is going to be a much more secure and profitable business," he added.

He said RTZ, which operates in 40 countries, mining copper, precious metals, uranium, tin and molybdenum, reformed last year to concentrate on its natural re-

## OPEC team meets today

BRUSSELS (AP) — OPEC ministers will take a look this week at the results of their handiwork, a plan late last year that called for sharp cuts in oil production to try to force up crude prices.

"They've done better adhering to their quotas than most had expected," said Fergus Macleod, oil analyst at Barclays De Zoete Wedd in London.

"Prices have looked amazingly good," he said.

Eight ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were scheduled to begin their talks Wednesday at the group's headquarters in Vienna.

Subroto, secretary-general of the 13-nation organisation, told reporters last week that the ministers, members of a monitoring committee, would review the market situation and make certain the new accord was working well.

Struggling to lift sagging crude prices, the group agreed last November on a new quota system that applied ceilings to each member's output in the first half of this year. The overall production level was set at 18.5 million barrels a day, well under the surge in output that marked the end of last year.

The accord was designed to drive oil prices up to the group's target of \$18 a barrel. Many analysts had been sceptical the producing countries would comply with their quotas. But analysts now say most nations generally have met their targets, leading to higher prices.

The average price of a basket of crudes monitored by OPEC reached \$17.50 a barrel last week, up more than \$5 from late November when the output deal was struck.

Prices for West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark U.S. crude, and North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude, have soared more than the Middle Eastern brands offered by the OPEC countries.

But even so, Macleod said the price pickup "has been good for OPEC."

Subroto said: "My feelings that there seems to be a bullish expectation in the market to see a strong price level. So we will enter the second quarter, which is usually a weak quarter, with a stronger demand than had been foreseen."

At the upcoming meeting, ministers will no doubt take note of promises by independent-producing nations to ship exports in the April-June quarter to lend backing to OPEC's efforts. The cuts were expected to total less than 300,000 barrels a day.

The Soviet Union, the world's largest crude producer, said it would go along with the trims in the second quarter, normally a weak period with the warming of weather in oil-importing countries. Prices generally slip at this time.

With the good wintertime results, the ministers also will likely hold initial discussions on production levels for the second half of this year. Those quotas won't be set until a ministerial meeting

June 5 in Vienna.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, Kuwait's oil minister, told the Middle East Economic Survey that OPEC should boost its production ceiling by 1.5 million barrels a day to 20 million barrels in the last six months of the year. He said in an interview published Monday that the group's price target should be maintained at \$18 a barrel.

Since the production accord, OPEC has reported that 12 of the nations complied with the agreement in January and February by curtailing their supply to the international market.

The group said the 12 nations pumped 17.4 million barrels of oil a day in February, a bit under the ceiling of 17.51 million barrels a day set for the dozen countries.

The results, it said, were "an indication of the continued determination of member countries to adhere strictly to the... production agreement and thus contribute to stability in the international oil market."

The statement said the United Arab Emirates had not reported supply figures in either January or February. That country has persistently exceeded its quota of 968,000 barrels a day. Analysts estimated its current production at more than 1.5 million barrels a day.

Ministers who form the monitoring committee represent Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Other OPEC members are Ecuador, Gabon, Libya, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

## 'Soviet rebound needs time'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet economy is faring reasonably well but might still take decades to rebuild, a leading U.S. economist has said.

One of the main achievements of Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme was to spark debate in the Soviet Union about the economy's future, said Ed Hewett senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

This debate had laid the basis for more radical reforms in the next decade, Hewett told a seminar for foreign journalists in Moscow.

"My estimate is that if they do everything right, it would take more than 30 years to turn this economy around," he said.

The difficulties had caused dependency among Soviet economists who did not feel anything was working, he said.

But, but the standards of previous five-year plans and bearing in mind the problems Gorbachev faced in introducing market forces to a socialist economy, macroeconomic indicators did not look too bad, he said.

"No one knows how to create markets," he said. "People know how to regulate them but not create them."

Gorbachev had been unlucky about a drop in hard currency revenues from oil exports. He also had to fund expensive rescue operations after the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986 and last year's devastating earthquake in Armenia.

These, along with burgeoning food subsidies, had widened the budget deficit to an expected 100 billion roubles (\$162 billion) this year after 79 million roubles (\$127 billion) in 1988.

But, although the official Soviet figure of five per cent growth in gross national product

(GNP) in 1988 was probably distorted by hidden inflation, lower non-official estimates of Soviet GNP were not disappointing by international standards, Hewett said.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which estimates an average 2.7 per cent annual growth rate in Soviet GNP up to the year 2000, puts growth last year at 1.5 per cent while private U.S. research company Planecon puts it at 2.9 per cent.

Hewett said industrial output rose a provisional 3.9 per cent in 1988 in line with the 1986-90 plan target and machine-building output grew 6.2 per cent after 5.5 per cent in 1987.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, March 28, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	84.3	85.2
Pound Sterling	913.3	926.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.5	408.4
Deutsche mark	285.4	288.4	Dutch guilder	253.0	255.6
Swiss franc	326.6	331.2	Swedish crown	83.7	84.6
			Italian lira (for 100)	36.9	39.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	136.3	137.7

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollar	1.7002/12	1.1930/40	U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar	1.8840/47	2.1250/60	Canadian dollar
Deutsche marks	1.6453/63	39.45/48	Deutsche marks
Dutch guilders	6.3710/60	1381/1382	Dutch guilders
Swiss francs	132.80/90	6.4210/60	Swiss francs
Belgian francs	6.8330/80	7.3440/90	Belgian francs
French francs	7.3440/90	391.00/391.50	French francs
Italian lire			Italian lire
Japanese yen			Japanese yen
Swedish crowns			Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns			Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns			Danish crowns
U.S. dollars			U.S. dollars

## Turkey to tighten austerity programme

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey is heading for a new dose of austerity after voters maulled the government at the polls, but banks said the economy is well-placed to ride out a possible political crisis.

"Ten years ago, foreign banks would have shut off the taps at the first sign of political instability," a senior foreign banker said. "But things are now different, more stable."

"An early general election is quite possible but all three parties are pro-Western," he said.

"There's no room for changing basic economic policies."

The nationwide poll results, in which Motherland trailed one party to the political left of it and another to the right, sent the lira down and gold up in the Istanbul covered bazaar. But the changes were slight, dealers said.

Bankers said some projects with foreign investment could be kept on ice and noted that the new leftist mayor of Istanbul opposes such major projects as a third bridge over the Bosphorus waterway.

But the government said international economic policies under which Turkey has opened up to the outside world in the last decade would not change.

Namik Kemal Kilic, acting head of the Turkish treasury, told Reuters: "Even the World Bank and the IMF will be surprised at our dedication to tight monetary policies to curb public spending and inflation."

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Unrest continues to grip Kosovo which has witnessed riots since Feb. 28. One million persons paraded in the street last month after the

Kosovo Communist Party resigned under pressure from striking miners.

## Kosovo death toll hits 21 as Serbia tightens grip

**BELGRADE (R)** — Eighteen people have been killed in ethnic Albanian riots in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, the region's Information Ministry said Tuesday.

Deputy Minister Marija Gasi told reporters in the provincial capital of Pristina that 19 demonstrators and two policemen had been killed Monday and Tuesday during increasingly violent protests over new limits on Kosovo's autonomy.

She said scores of people had been injured on both sides. Gasi said a demonstrator was shot by police when 500 rioters attacked them in Zur, a village on the Albanian border.

She said the 18-year-old man was the first person to be killed by police, but did not make clear how the other protesters died. Innocent bystanders were among the injured, she said.

An earlier police statement said the police had fired in self-defence and would do so again to protect their lives.

Two policemen have been killed in the rioting so far.

In at least five towns, heavily armed police in riot gear used tear gas and water cannon to quell protests against constitutional amendments which took effect Tuesday. The changes give greater control over the province to Serbia.

Serbia is Yugoslavia's largest republic and Kosovo, with a predominantly Albanian population, is a constituent part of it. Kosovo is one of the poorest regions in Yugoslavia although it

is rich in natural resources.

Officials said a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed in Kosovo Monday applied without exception and included vehicles.

A ban on gathering in groups is being strictly enforced, residents in Pristina, 200 kilometres south of Belgrade, said.

The reported death toll after six days of rioting exceeds the official tally of nine dead in Albanian separatist riots in 1981, which led to the brief imposition of martial law.

Protesters have ransacked buildings and cars, smashed shop fronts, stoned police, and something fired on them in the street and from rooftops and balconies.

"The intention was obviously to provoke larger scale armed clashes," Tanjug said. Soldiers joined police in some places to disperse crowds. Un-

confirmed reports said troops and tanks were on the move in Kosovo and that one town was sealed off by the army.

On Tuesday's riots, erupted in the towns of Prizren, Zur, Dusanov, Orshovac and Podujevo.

Helicopters circled over Pristina and police armoured cars patrolled the streets. Wearing bullet-proof jackets and carrying automatic weapons, police were stationed throughout the town with tear gas launchers.

While battles raged in Kosovo, the constitutional changes were proclaimed in Belgrade and the president of Serbia's parliament, Borisav Jovic, called it a "Festive, joyous and historic day" for his republic.

The changes took away much of the autonomy granted to Kosovo.

## Filipinos vote amid violence

**MANILA (AP)** — At least 15 people were killed as voters chose village leaders Tuesday in halting the government's move to the final step in restoring democracy in the nation.

However, the military claimed rebels would use the elections to expand their control in rural areas.

Voters in more than 41,000 villages and urban districts chose about 287,567 council members from more than 860,000 candidates in the fourth nationwide balloting since President Corason Aquino took power three years ago.

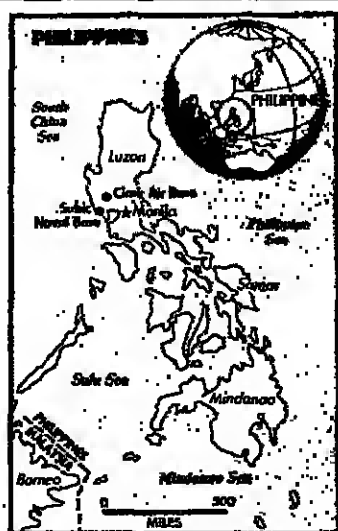
Although there were several reports of remote villages failing to hold elections because of intimidation from unidentified armed groups, election officials said it would take several days for official reports on the incidents to reach Manila.

Election officials were expected to complete the vote counting Wednesday.

Aquino, who voted in Tarlac Province, north of Manila, urged Filipinos to pray for "a very peaceful and orderly election."

A compilation of military, government and regional election reports showed at least 15 people died in election-related incidents, but no major disturbances were reported.

The military said gunmen killed one person and wounded



three others as they went to a polling station in the town of Tupi in south Cotabato province on Mindanao Island.

Incidents also occurred in La Union province on Luzon Island: in the town of Minalabac in Camarines Sur Province, also in Luzon; in nearby Quezon province and in Samar Island.

The elections were officially non-partisan. But political analysts said the outcome will influence national politics by enabling political factions to establish grass-roots organizations in advance of the 1992 presidential election.

Colonel Gerardo Flores, intelligence chief of the Philippine constabulary, said communist rebels were backing candidates in hopes of capturing 60 per cent of the council seats in areas under their control.

The rebels claim to control about 8,500 villages nationwide and to operate in another 3,500.

## Gorbachev has Raisa, but what about Fidel?

**HAVANA (R)** — When Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visits Cuba next week, a major figure will be missing — a Cuban first lady.

Gorbachev's stylish wife Raisa enjoys international recognition but President Fidel Castro is never seen with an official female companion on public occasions. Castro travels overseas, greets foreign visitors, attends receptions at the ornate palace of the revolution with no first lady at his side.

Foreign visitors almost always ask whether Castro is married. If he is, the marriage is a closely guarded secret.

Such questions are not addressed in the state-controlled media. Cubans who might be in a position to know about Castro's personal life keep their lips sealed.

Castro was married from 1948-55. Rumours persist that he has a second wife who bore him two children, a son and daughter, now between the ages of 20 and 25.

Nobody is prepared to comment on the matter and Cuban government officials hint it would be considered bad taste for a journalist to search for an answer.

But for the purposes of Gorbachev's trip, which starts Sunday, one woman may fleetingly assume the role of first lady and play host to Raisa.

The wife of Castro's younger brother and designated successor Raul, Vilma Espin, is a full member of the Communist Party Polit-

buro and has headed the Cuban Women's Federation since it was founded more than 25 years ago.

In 1948 Fidel Castro married Mirtha Diaz-Balart, a fellow student at the University of Havana. They had a son a year later, but divorced in 1955, the year Castro exiled himself to Mexico.

From then on, his relations with women formed part of an official history clouded by anecdotes and rumours.

It is known he had a Cuban girlfriend while in exile in Mexico in 1956 who bore him a daughter.

According to knowledgeable Cubans, he fathered several other children with different women, just before or after the January 1959 triumph of the revolution.

It is understood these children bear the last name Castro and were educated in regular Cuban schools.

One woman stood out for her public and undoubtedly close relationship with Castro, Celia Sanchez.

Her involvement in the revolution dated back to the mid-1950s. For many years, she was, in the words of one of his biographers "the most important person in his life."

"Celia Sanchez Mandulay was 36 years old, unmarried, extremely intelligent and efficient, dark-haired, attractive without being beautiful, and wholly dedicated to the ideals of the 26th of July Movement as defined by Castro," Tad Szulc wrote in "Fidel: A Critical Portrait."

## Sweeping election defeat sparks Kremlin concern

**MOSCOW (R)** — Soviet newspapers indicated Kremlin concern Tuesday at the crushing victory of rebel Communist Boris Yeltsin and the defeat of senior Communist officials in national polls across the country.

The capital's party newspaper, Moskovskaya Pravda, accused by Yeltsin campaigners of vilifying their candidate during the campaign, published results of Sunday's district elections on its front page.

But news of Yeltsin's 90 per cent vote was relegated to a small report at the foot of page two.

The national party daily Pravda reported Yeltsin's victory, but did not give his share of the vote.

The cursory references to Yeltsin's victory and absence of any commentaries appeared to suggest clearly that the party was

seriously shaken by the scale of the defeats.

More than half a dozen senior Communist officials failed to win their seats in the first contested general election in 70 years.

The results also showed senior party officials in the Baltic republics trounced by members of emerging mass movements and regional leaders in the Ukraine beaten by radical reformers.

The most senior casualty was Leningrad regional party chief Yuri Soloviyov, a junior member of the party's ruling Politburo, who was defeated along with the city party leader Anatoly Gerasimov and the Communist mayor Vladimir Khodyrev.

All three are members of the party's policy-making Central Committee.

In the Ukraine, two top aides

to senior Politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitsky failed to win election as well as party leaders from five regions of the republic.

The party could draw little consolation even from its victories.

An official of the Dnepropetrovskaya Pravda told Reuters by telephone Tuesday that Shcherbitsky, widely regarded as a conservative, had won through.

Shcherbitsky had no challenger for his seat in the Dnepropetrovsk region of the Ukraine. But almost 63,000 of the 240,000 voters registered a protest by crossing out his name on the ballot form.

The election had strong symbolic significance since Dnepropetrovsk was the power base of the disgraced former Kremlin chief Leonid Brezhnev.

## Cherokees observe 150th anniversary of resettlement

**TAHLEQUAH, Oklahoma (AP)** — It is no celebration the Cherokees plan this week to mark the Indian tribe's greatest tragedy 150 years ago.

In the winter of 1838-39, thousands of Cherokees died when the U.S. government forced them to move from their homes in southeastern United States to what is now northeastern Oklahoma.

President Andrew Jackson ordered the Cherokees removed from land sought by white settlers, and U.S. troops escorted the Cherokees in their march along what is known as the "Trail of Tears."

On Friday and Saturday, the tribe observes the sesquicentennial of that time. The last of 14 groups of Cherokees escorted by federal troops arrived in Oklahoma in late March 1839.

"I think for us it's a very solemn, very emotional time. We look at it as something that hap-

pened to our family," said Wilma Mankiller, chief of the Cherokees, the nation's second-largest Indian tribe. Indians are native inhabitants of the United States.

In the tribe's capital of Tahlequah, a city of 10,000, there will be speeches, story-telling and flute playing. A tree will be planted in honour of the estimated 4,000 Cherokees who died along the trail. Mankiller said most Cherokees made the trek by boat, some in shackles.

Hogs will be cooked in huge black kettles on the grounds of a historic home. There will be free corn bread and beans, eggs and wild onions.

"This is what the Indians of the hills eat... whatever food they could find and forage," said John Ketcher, deputy chief of the tribe.

Mankiller said Cherokees decided to mark the sesquicentennial after some hesitation because of

the sensitivity that lingers over those days.

"I think it's healthy for us to look back (and show) respect for our ancestors," she said.

Mankiller said the observance provides "a chance to do some public education about our history."

"There's so little accurate information about what modern American Indians are like. There's a vacuum," she said.

Most Americans have very limited knowledge of Indians and have stereotyped images of them as found in John Wayne movies, Mankiller said.

Those forced westward included Cherokees who owned plantations and had assimilated into the dominant white culture. But the tribe also has its own government and its own written language.

Ketcher's great-grandparents were on the trail, uprooted from northern Georgia.

## Guatemalan prisoners hold 600 hostages, ponder government offer

**GUATEMALA CITY (R)** — Armed inmates holding about 600 hostages were considering a government offer of better prison conditions and leniency in return for an end to their revolt, which entered its third day Tuesday.

About 1,000 soldiers, police and prison guards held machinegun positions in and outside the electrified perimeter of El Pavon jail, 16 kilometres south of the capital.

"We've made a series of offers and we hope things will be resolved tomorrow (Tuesday)," Jose Manuel Campos, director of the Guatemalan prison system, told reporters late Monday.

Inmates at the prison have been holding the hostages since a failed breakout attempt Sunday.

Four prison guards and four inmates were killed in a three-hour gun battle Sunday that left

about 50 injured, prison systems spokesman Conrado Monroy said. Three prison workers and a guard were also missing.

Most of the hostages are women and children relatives of prisoners allowed into the jail for Easter visits, although two fire service officials who had been conducting negotiations early on in the dispute were also reported taken hostage.

Campos, commenting that the prisoners were unlikely to risk the lives of their relatives, said the inmates seemed willing to negotiate and he played down the possibility of further bloodshed.

"I don't think that is going to happen," he said. "They appear to be open to dialogue."

He said there had been no gunfire since a few warning volleys from the prisoners early Monday.

Late Monday, the inmates released 19 hostages — 15 adults and four children — suffering from shock, Monroy said.

The prisoners also allowed guards to take away the bodies of two of the dead, a prisoner and a guard.

The government human rights ombudsman, Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva, passed a list of concessions to the prisoners Monday, including better food, electricity and water supplies as well as a judicial pardon for crimes committed during the siege.

One of the dead inmates was reported to be a former army officer jailed on murder charges, and prison officials said the breakthrough attempt appeared to be carefully organised.

Monroy said about 75 of the prison's 1,356 inmates were actively taking part in the revolt.

## Britain violence hits record

**LONDON (AP)** — An upsurge in violent crime in Britain has alarmed the public and shoved public safety into the forefront of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's governmental agenda.

Violent crime accounts for less than five per cent of crime in Britain. But a 12.2 per cent increase in violent crimes in England and Wales — from 141,043 offences in 1987 to 158,248 in 1988 — has renewed debate on the cause and the cure.

Many Britons have been horrified by pictures and news stories of violent crime — a 77-year-old grandmother battered by thieves, a Turkish student stabbed to death on a London subway, a rapist who targets elderly women, a gang of robbers who terrorised suburban families.

The government is fighting violent crime with more police, pushing for tougher sentences, and stressing the importance of

personal responsibility, said Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is in charge of law enforcement.

"Although violent crime accounts for only about one in 20 of all crimes, it blights the lives of many people," he said. "The victims are often scarred emotionally as well as physically. Fear of crime diminishes the lives of thousands, especially elderly people and women."

Paradoxically, violent crime hit the record level in 1988 as overall crime fell by five per cent, the biggest annual drop in 35 years. This was a sharp reversal of the average five per cent annual increase in the crime rate since 1980.

Hurd called the overall decline the "first blue patches in what once seemed a wholly dark sky." It was largely due to a continuing fall in burglary and theft, which account for more than 90 per cent

of crimes in Britain.

The decrease is "due substantially to individual citizens taking anti-crime measures," said Home Office Minister John Patten.

The government has promoted the "neighbourhood watches" and nearly 60,000 operate. But research has found the schemes ineffective.

But while many people have demanded Thatcher make good on her "law and order" promises that helped her win power a decade ago, others blame her policies for promoting the violence.

"The callous individualism that has been encouraged by Mrs. Thatcher and her ministers over the past 10 years is directly responsible for the increase in violent crime," said Roy Hattersley, the Socialist Labour Party's chief spokesman on law enforcement issues.

## COLUMN

### 'Insurance is going to the dogs'

**DANBURY, Connecticut (AP)** — Americans insure everything from precious jewels to contact lenses. But when it comes to their pets, they're just catching up with the Europeans.

J. Scott Henderson, who founded the Animal Health Insurance Agency Incorporated in 1983, now writing \$1.5 million worth of health insurance policies annually on 20,000 dogs and cats in 49 of the 50 U.S. states. "When we started this, people would say, 'Insurance is going to the dogs,'" he said recently. "They don't laugh any more." Pet health insurance has been common in Europe for half a century. But the idea has been a long time catching on in the health-conscious United States, where 30 such companies have failed since 1945, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Experts say the five or six companies now offering pet health insurance have entered the market at the right time, as attitudes toward pets were changing and increasingly sophisticated medical treatments became more common. "It's going to be successful this time," said Sam Strahan, a veterinarian and AVMA president-elect. "There are individuals where their pet is certainly part of the family, and they are going to become more comfortable using third-party payments."

### Principal goes to great heights

**MONROE TOWNSHIP, New Jersey (AP)** — An elementary school principal who pledged to go to great heights to spur his pupils to read did just that — he spent the day on the school's roof. Whitehall Elementary School Principal John R. Muller told pupils at the start of the school year he would spend a day on the roof — despite his fear of heights — if they would read one million pages. The 650 pupils reached their goal this month, helped by guest speakers and parents whose reading to the children was counted in the total. So Tuesday, Muller relinquished his duties to a pupil, put on a heavy winter coat, gloves and hat and was hoisted onto the roof by the Cecil fire company. "Someone suggested that I sleep overnight," Muller said.

### Bono gets praise

**PALM SPRINGS (AP)** — Mayor Sonny Bono's former critics are speaking well of him after his first year in office. "I give him an 'A' for effort," said former Mayor Frank Bogert. "I criticised him to beat the band before he got in because he didn't have any experience, but he's learned real fast and has a lot of good ideas." "My earlier views changed because he is working so hard," said Rose Mihata, businesswoman and founder of a self-appointed watchdog group that has clashed with Bono. The 54-year-old actor and singer conceded: "The test wasn't winning the election. The true test was getting the various groups to trust me... but there is more confidence now because no one is questioning my motives anymore." Bono, criticised by those who called his mayoral bid an attempt to resuscitate a lagging show business career, cashed in on his celebrity status to promote tourism and secure corporate sponsors for events in the financially strapped oasis. It was the same kind of energy he used to help vault the pop duo Sonny and Cher to stardom in the 1960s. Eager to transform Palm Springs from a retirement community into a chic international travel destination, Bono, who has kept a home in Palm Springs for 17 years, works at least 60 hours a week at a job that pays \$5,000.

## The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	50	20 68 Clear
ATHENS	05	43	22 72 Clear
BAHRAIN	22	72	27 81 Fair
BANGKOK	27	81	34 93 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	13	55	27 80 Clear
CAIRO	11	52	22 72 Clear
CHICAGO	15	59	24 75 Rain
COPENHAGEN	08	45	15 55 Clear
DENVER	09	43	23 74 Clear
FRANKFURT	05	41	21 70 Clear
GENEVA	08	57	19 68 Clear
HONG KONG	18	61	23 73 Clear
ISTANBUL	05	41	12 54 Clear
LONDON	12	54	19 68 Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	57	63 Cloudy
MADRID	09	43	23 74 Clear
MECCA	23	73	38 100 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	74	26 78 Cloudy
MONTREAL	00	32	16 61 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	32	04 39 Clear
NEW DELHI	20	68	26 82 Cloudy
NEW YORK	07	44	18 61 Rain
PARIS	12	54	24 75 Clear
ROME	04	38	23 73 Clear
TOKYO	06	43	08 48 Rain
VIENNA	02	38	20 68 Clear

## Thais pray for money, love, health at Bangkok shrine

By Drew Torchia  
Reuters

**BANGKOK** — On a noisy street corner in central Bangkok, Jarassri Jaideang kneels and places lotus buds before the image of a Hindu god she says found her a job.

Every day hundreds of Thais pray for money, love and health at the Erawan shrine, one of the most revered sites of worship in this Buddhist nation. Hundreds more give thanks after having their prayers answered.

"You can say the shrine saved my life," said Jarassri, 28, who came to Bangkok from the far northern town of

Chiang Rai 10 months ago in search of work.

Like many migrants to the capital, Jarassri found life in Bangkok harsher than she had expected. She spent six months looking for full-time work, worrying that she would have to return to her family's grocery store in Chiang Rai.

Four months ago she went to the shrine on a friend's recommendation. Several weeks later she found a job in a small sewing shop, earning \$80 a month.

"It got me a good job after I tried by myself and found nothing," Jarassri said. "It let me stay in Bangkok."

The shrine was built in 1956

after a series of accidents during construction of the Erawan hotel. "Spirit doctors" had a four-faced statue of the Hindu deity Brahma erected in a corner of the site and the hotel was completed without further delay.

The hotel has since been torn down and a modern one is being built on the spot. But the shrine will remain, hearing prayers for high examination grades, bumper harvests, lucrative business deals, good health and lost possessions such as books and car keys.

Worship takes concentration. Traditional Thai music and clouds of incense compete with the roar and fumes of

traffic. As they speed past the corner, car drivers and motorcyclists often let go of the steering wheel to raise their hands in quick prayer.

Married couples visit the shrine to ask for children. Love, in various forms, is a major topic.

"We came to ask for a happy married life and all the good things it can bring," said nurse Noi Chinnearap, 21, clutching the hand of the man she married less than a year ago.

"I go every week before I start work to ask for generous men," said Nida Chalchum, 18, who said she worked in a bar in a Bangkok red light district.

Nida, who came to Bangkok five months ago from a village 600 kilometres to the north, earns \$100 a month dancing in a bikini and talking to foreign tourists at the club. If the men are generous, she said, she can earn an extra \$20 for staying a night with them.

Worshippers offer flowers, fruit, incense, money and small wooden elephants at the shrine. They also hire traditional dancing groups to perform before the Brahma.

Hindu beliefs filtered into Thailand from India before the advent of Buddhism more than 2,500 years ago. Erawan was a 33-headed elephant in Hindu mythology.

The shrine's fame has spread through the Chinese societies of Asia and many supplicants come from Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan.

Not all of the worshippers are convinced. Of the shrine's power, however.

"I think there's a 50-50 chance that this will do any good but as long as there's a chance I'd be foolish not to take it," said Nopphadol Viwatkamolwat, a 19-year-old university student who asked for success in examinations.

The shrine has failed some people. Thirayuth Charoenphaisal, 34, a machine operator, asked Brahma four years ago to help him buy a house,

after which he would look for a wife.

The house cost 500,000 baht (\$20,000) and Thirayuth had scraped together 200,000. He hoped to win the rest of the money in the government lottery, spending a tenth of his monthly salary on tickets.

But Thirayuth did not win and still has not married.

"I've realised it's impossible to wait for the future or trust in luck. Everything depends on my own hard work," he said while visiting the shrine with his brother, who was praying for success in examinations.

"If I can get the house, though," Thirayuth said, "I'll believe again."